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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Who do you think will win the U.S. presidential election?

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INSIDE

LOCAL

GTC Elementary names Patricia Deleon Guerrero as its Teacher of the Year. ➤ PAGE 2

BUSINESS

Sandy will end up causing about $20 billion in property damages. ➤ PAGE 16

WORLD

Airstrikes by Syrian jets level a neighborhood in a restive city near the capital of Damascus. ➤ PAGE 17

Froilan, Crisostimo have worst attendance. PAGE 3
218 cases of recalled cereals removed from stores. PAGE 6

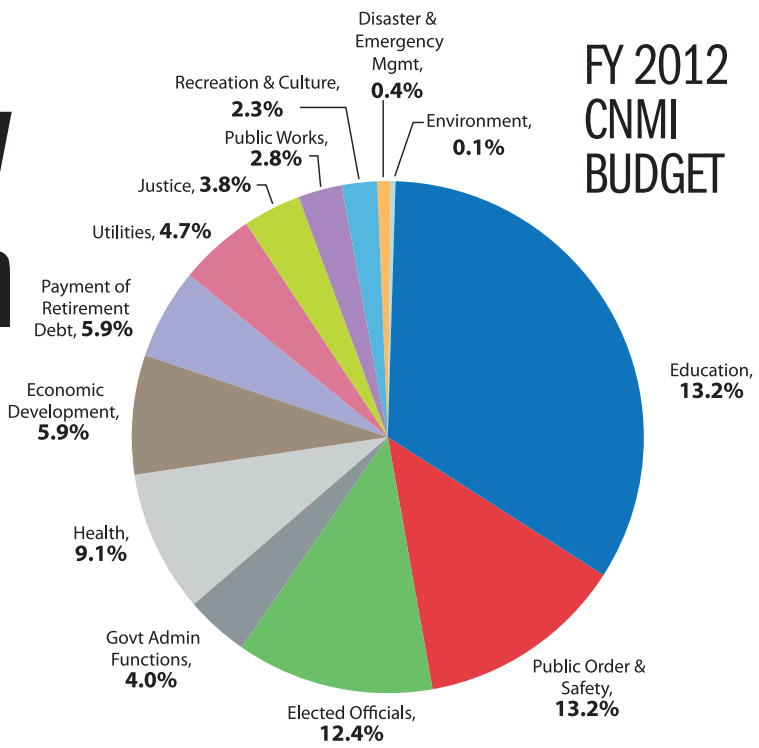
INTERIOR DEPARTMENT REPORT

NMI faces 'potentially catastrophic' problem

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Elected officials get more budget than health, other public services

A U.S. Department of the Interior report says the CNMI confronts a "potentially catastrophic fiscal problem," the root causes of which have long been known—yet needed actions to put the government on a "sustainable fiscal course" would take more than just work hour cuts, turning a health department into a corporation, and rejoining the U.S. Social Security System.



See PROBLEM on Page 4

PORTRAITS UNVEILED BILL BEZZANT

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona poses for a photo with former District Court chief judges Alfred Laureta, left, and Alex R. Munson during yesterday's unveiling of Laureta and Munson's portraits. As the first chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Laureta served from 1978 to 1988. Munson succeeded Laureta from 1988 to 2010.

Pros, cons of an elected AG

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Having an elected instead of a governor-appointed attorney general in the CNMI now rests with voters, but lawmakers and the Fitial administration are weighing in on why voters should mark their ballot "yes" or "no" on an elected AG initiative. Both sides have strong points and merits.

House Legislative Initiative 17-2, authored by Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), amends Article III Section 11 of the NMI Constitution to authorize the election of an attorney general.

At present, the attorney general is appointed by the

See PROS on Page 4

PH consulate shuts down after more than 23 years

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sadog Tasi resident Juanita Andres wanted to make sure that she is still registered as an overseas absentee voter so she could cast her ballot in the May 2013 Philippine elections. However, she couldn't find the time to register because of her job as a house worker.

"Work keeps me busy," Andres, who has been on Saipan

See CONSULATE on Page 4

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Local

Deleon Guerrero leads GTC education awardees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Editor's Note: This story is part of a series of articles that Saipan Tribune *is publishing in support of the celebration of Education Month by the Public School System.*

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School has named Patricia Deleon Guerrero as its Teacher of the Year awardee this year. She will now vie for the Public School System-wide search for the overall Teacher of the Year. The competition also seeks winners for the CNMI PSS teacher aide of the year, support staff of the year, counselor of the year, and librarian of the year.

Deleon Guerrero obtained her bachelor's degree in elementary education from the Northern Marianas College in 2008. A few months after, she joined GTC and has since then been a proud member of the Binadu family. Last April, she obtained her master's degree from Framingham State University.

The 27-year-old Deleon Guerrero is a second grade teacher who attends to 19 students in her class daily.

"Since I was a young girl, I've been so amazed with teaching. I always play school with my siblings and right then and there, I knew that I would become a teacher someday because I like working with kids and it really interests me to watch them grow, develop, and progress into young individuals," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

GTC principal Charlotte Camacho said that Deleon Guerrero's commitment and dedication to GTC and her students is evident in her involvement. She described her as "caring, knowledgeable, energetic, and passionate," with a positive attitude toward teaching and learning.

Deleon Guerrero integrates art, plays and skits, music, and physical activities into her lessons. She is a member of the school's leadership team and accreditation, mentor for the NMC Student Teacher Program, the school's representative to the Science Learning Community, and coordinator for the school level science fair.

Other awardees

GTC's Teacher Aide of the Year for 2012 is Spencer Marchadesch, who is with the school's special education program. Marchadesch has been with GTC for four years since 2009. He also performs other duties including Boys Scout coordinator for the school; coach for basketball, soccer, and track and field; assists in maintenance and other duties; and helps in school programs such as the Parade of Books.

Named Support Staff of the Year is Gloria Nauta, the school's administrative staff for four years now. Nauta was described by her principal as a team player and with the initiative to help anyone in need. She was chosen for her consistently satisfactory attendance, work ethic, and dependability.

GTC conferred this year's Librarian of the Year award on Corazon San Nicolas, who has been with the school for five years. Not only is she responsible for ensuring that all students have access to the library and know how to choose books appropriate to their reading level, she is also GTC's representative to the Librarian's Learning Community and a member of the school's Response Intervention Team.

The school's Counselor of the Year is Amparo Q. Camacho, who has been with the school for four years. She was described by her principal as "dependable, reliable, responsible, and a leader."

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School principal Charlotte Camacho, center, poses with this year's educational awardees. From left are Teacher Aide of the Year Spencer Marchadesch, Support Staff of the Year Gloria Nauta, Librarian of the Year Corazon San Nicolas, Camacho, Teacher of the Year Patricia Deleon Guerrero, and Counselor of the Year Amparo Camacho.

From $77K to $166K in developers' tax split for Saipan projects

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

What started out as $70,000 in developers' infrastructure tax ballooned by 138 percent to $166,582 that Saipan lawmakers appropriated yesterday for four projects, including those at the Public School System, an animal shelter sewer disposal system, a crosswalk, and a basketball court.

» Saipan delegation also confirms Zoning Board member

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed Rep. Ray Yumul's (Ind-Saipan) House Local Bill 17-90, House Draft 2 by a vote of 16-0.

Of the total amount, $96,582 will go to PSS' water and wastewater program. The expenditure authority for this funding is the education commissioner.

The delegation also appropriated $20,000 for an animal shelter sewer disposal system, with the Saipan mayor as expenditure authority.

Another $30,000 will be used for the construction of a crosswalk fronting Eucon International School and other locations on Saipan, and the remaining $20,000 will be for the construction and improvement of the drainage system by the San Antonio basketball court. The Department of Public Works secretary is the expenditure authority for these funds.

In the original version of the local bill, the collection from developers' infrastructure tax was only $77,000, and was meant to fund only two projects: $60,000 for PSS's water and wastewater program, and $10,000 for the animal shelter project.

Zoning board member confirmation

By a vote of 16-0, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation also confirmed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's appointment of Natalie Mable E. Ayuyu to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

Ayuyu will serve a two-year term.

Fitial appointed Ayuyu on Sept. 25. Days later or on Oct. 4, the governor transmitted to the delegation the requirements supporting Ayuyu's nomination including her resume, statement of financial interest, police clearance, and drug test receipt.

Saipan Tribune
will be suspending publication of its Saturday issue starting November 2012.

Froilan, Crisostimo have worst attendance in last two quarters

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Various illnesses are putting a serious dent on the capability of some lawmakers from showing up during sessions in either the House of Representatives or Senate.

Tenorio

Crisostimo

Based on attendance alone, Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Sen. Luis Crisostimo (R-Saipan) have the worst record among 29 House and Senate members, for missing 60 percent or nine of the 15 sessions held from April to September 2012, including during deliberations and passage of the fiscal year 2013 budget. Their poor attendance was a result of off-island medical treatment.

Their attendance records show "absent excused."

Nine lawmakers—six from the House and three from the Senate—had perfect attendance during the period under review. These are based on records from the Senate and House Clerks' offices. They include House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), and Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota).

Demapan said it's always good to be present during sessions, although it's not the only measure of a lawmaker's competence.

"Being always there sets a good example, and it's about living up to the confidence that people gave you to represent them. I always try to be there on sessions so that I can represent the interests of Precinct 2 and the whole CNMI. I take my job seriously so I am there all the time," said Demapan, chairman of the Judiciary and Government Operations Committee.

Tenorio and Crisostimo each missed nine of the 15 sessions. A former governor, Tenorio has been in Hawaii and Arizona for medical treatment and recuperation. He is still in Arizona.

Crisostimo has also been making several trips to the U.S. mainland to receive treatment for his throat cancer.

Unlike Tenorio who is stepping down after January 2013, Crisostimo is seeking re-election in the Nov. 6 mid-term elections.

Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) ranked second among lawmakers with most number of absences, missing seven or 47 percent of the 15 sessions held. San Nicolas is not seeking re-election.

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), seeking re-election, missed four or 27 percent of sessions. Deleon Guerrero also has a medical condition that requires him to seek off-island treatment and recuperation.

Five lawmakers missed three or 20 percent of those sessions—House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (R-Saipan), Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), and Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian).

Another five lawmakers missed two or 13 percent of the sessions. They included Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Six House members had one absence each: Reps. Ray Basa (R-Saipan), George Camacho (R-Saipan), Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), Teresita Santos (R-Rota), and Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

Some of the lawmakers' absences were for official off-island business, including summits and training.

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), who is among those with perfect attendance, said that one of the most important responsibilities of lawmakers is to be present at sessions so they can deliberate on all the issues before them.

"Not being there, you can't deliberate on any of the bills, you cannot vote on bills. If you are absent, you fail to represent the people," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), also with perfect attendance, said he "pledges my commitment for our people because they deserve good representation."

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), who was absent once during the period under review, said to a certain extent, being there during sessions is one of the measures of a good lawmaker because it is during sessions when "laws are proposed, made, amended, and acted on."

"And if you're not consistently present, how can you call yourself a lawmaker when you're not there to help 'make' the laws?" he said.

The 17th Legislature is so far the only Legislature with a three-year term because of a constitutional amendment. Previous and future Legislatures have two-year terms.

Civil rights icon John Lewis
urges Northern Marianas voters…
Re-elect Kilili
Fellow Americans,
My life has been focused on achieving equality for all.
So it was with great pleasure that I voted in 2008 to give the people of the Northern Mariana Islands representation in the U.S. Congress.
It has been a pleasure, too, working with the first man you elected to represent you, Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan.
Mr. Sablan is a tireless advocate for principles I believe in: making sure that the people of the Northern Marianas have the same rights and privileges as other Americans, working to ensure that you are included in federal programs where you were previously forgotten.
This is work that takes dedication and determination. I know that from my own work in the Civil Rights Movement. But these are qualities of character that Congressman Sablan has in abundance.
When you exercise your right to vote on November 6, you will do well to vote for Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan.
Respectfully yours,
Rep. John Lewis
Member of Congress
"Mr. Sablan is a tireless advocate for principles I believe in: making sure that the people of the Northern Marianas have the same rights and privileges as other Americans…"
-- Rep. John Lewis
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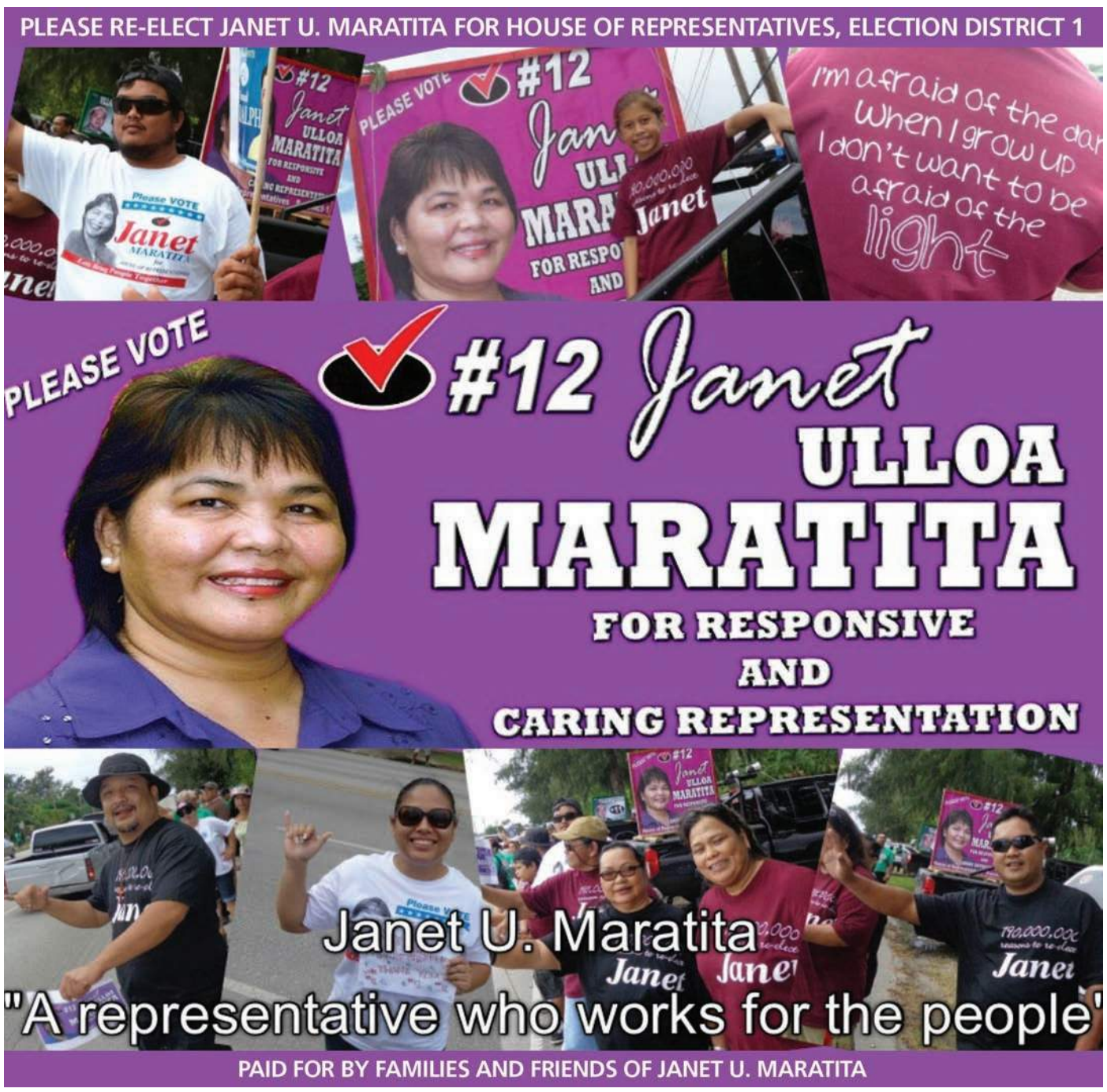

CONSULATE

From Page 1

for 18 years, said in her native language.

But the 51-year-old Ilocos Norte native made time on Wednesday to do her long overdue errand, joining dozens of other Filipinos on island who trooped to the Philippine Consulate General to avail of Overseas Absentee Voter registration and other consular services.

Yesterday was the last day of the Consulate and a large crowd took advantage of the opportunity, causing long lines at the consular post that has served the Filipino community in the CNMI for more than 23 years.

"It's really sad that the Saipan consulate will shut down because we no longer have any office to go to when we need assistance as Filipino workers," said Andres.

Gerry Aquino, 51, said his visit to the Consulate yesterday was because he was asked to submit supporting documents for his application for late birth registration.

"After the closure, it will be difficult to process any documents we would need because we now have to go through the Guam Consulate and that's not accessible for us here in the CNMI," said the auto mechanic from San Jose.

Filipino worker Francis Esguerra of Tinian, who arrived on island Monday and brought at least 25 consular service requests from the southern island, volunteered to help the remaining Consulate staff in assisting Filipino workers in need of consular services.

"While the Filipino community on Tinian is saddened by the closure, we already have accepted this decision by our government and are now looking forward to the mobile services of the Guam Consulate next year," she said.

Guam Consul Edgar Tomas "Gary" Auxilian, who took charge of the Saipan consulate after Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig left on Oct. 15, noted in an interview yesterday that the consulate had to stay open beyond office hours in their remaining weeks to accommodate the expected stream of Filipinos lining up for various consular services.

Auxilian disclosed that in the last few days, the consulate processed as many as 40 passport renewal applications per day, majority of which do not expire until next year.

The consular services provided of late, however, were limited to just passport renewal applications and OAV registration. Auxilian explained that consular documents needing longer processing times and requested at the last minute had to take a backseat due to time and manpower restrictions.

Consulate employees have begun leaving for other foreign service posts since Macaraig's departure for his Kuala Lumpur consular assignment more than two weeks ago, leaving behind Auxilian, administrative officer Jose M. Sto. Domingo, and finance officer Rowena G. Tolosa to deal with the disposal of consular properties, finalizing records and preparation of reports, among others.

"We thank the Filipino organizations, religious leaders, the media, and the entire Filipino community on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for having the pleasure to serve them in over 20 years. We also acknowledge the cooperation and support extended to us by the host government of CNMI," Auxilian told *Saipan Tribune*.

At the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, two attached agencies of the consulate, officer in charge Julia F. Fabian said that they processed as many as 125 OWWA membership application or renewal.

As of Wednesday morning, the office had a total of 874 OWWA memberships and more are still expected at the close of yesterday's business. The office used up all five booklets of official receipts that it ordered for Saipan.

Fabian said they just ask for the contact information of the OWWA member's family or any other person in the Philippines whom they will authorize to pick up the official receipt once released.

"But we did issue a certificate of membership coverage to the OWWA member and then we stamped in their passport the validity of their coverage," she added.

With yesterday's closure of the Saipan consulate, Auxilian said the consulate in Agana, Guam welcomes today the challenge of taking over the consular responsibilities in the Northern Marianas. The consul was designated as the point of contact for Filipinos in the Commonwealth.

"It's a new challenge for us," he said. "We hope to be able to live up to that challenge. Despite the distance separating the Northern Marianas and Guam, the Guam consulate will reach out to the Filipino community here through modern technology. With great excitement and with God's help, we will be able to serve our *kababayans*."

Auxilian revealed that once he goes back to Guam by Nov. 15, the Guam Consulate General will begin preparations for the planning and logistics of mobile consular services to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in 2013.

He emphasized that the Guam consulate will rely on the support of Filipino organizations and religious groups in serving the Filipino community of the Northern Marianas.

Auxilian urged Filipinos to contact them for consular services and assistance. The Philippine Consulate General in Guam is located at Suite 601-602, ITC Building, 590 Marine Corps Drive in Tamuning. Mailing address is P.O. Box 9880, Tamuning 96931, Guam. Contact numbers are (671) 646-4620 or 30 for office, (671) 649-1868 for fax, and (671) 488-4630 for hotline. They can be emailed at pcgagana@ite.net and they also have a Facebook page (agana pcg). For requirements and procedures on consular services, visit www.philippinesguam.org.

PROBLEM

From Page 1

"A risky emergency landing is preferred to an uncontrolled crash landing," the report says, as it asks the CNMI to consider actions that are unpleasant yet would have a more appealing end result.

The Interior-commissioned CNMI financial assessment report, presented by Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other stakeholders the past few days, says the government should attend to three broad goals while providing essential services.

These are: Close the gap between current revenues and current expenses; fund a deficit reduction schedule; and observe strict financial controls.

"Under the circumstances, striving to reduce the Commonwealth's accumulated deficits through a rational readjustment of expectations and service priorities will be both difficult and painful. As we see it, however, the alternative would be worse—potentially involving a haphazard loss of ability to provide fundamental government services," the report says.

It says given a deficit of over $300 million, more than twice the current annual revenues, it appears that financial controls "have broken down in the CNMI."

"Other than an extra budget item to apply the debt owed to the retirement fund, the CNMI has not made provisions to retire prior year deficits nor to establish an emergency reserve," it says.

Fitial said his administration has a deficit reduction plan.

Press secretary Angel Demapan echoed this yesterday, saying that this "involves setting aside surplus funds and reserving them in an effort to reduce the government's cumulative deficit."

Demapan said the administration is still reviewing the report but said it "should be noted that the bulk of the over $300 million cumulative deficit is the unpaid obligations to the NMI Retirement Fund."

He added that once the governor and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos complete their review, "further comment will be forthcoming."

Priorities

The report says policymakers should prioritize program spending to assure that citizens continue to receive a basic level of essential services.

For example, the Interior report determined that elected officials—mayors and councils, the Legislature, the governor and lieutenant governor—account for 12.4 percent of the general fund budget in fiscal year 2012.

This is almost equivalent to 13.2 percent for public order and safety. This is also higher than the 9.1 percent for health, the 7.3 percent for economic development, utilities at 4.7 percent, justice at 3.8 percent, or disaster and emergency management at 0.4 percent.

The bulk or 34.1 percent of the general fund budget remains for education.

Recommendations

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that the Chamber is "acutely aware of the cumulative general fund deficit of over $300 million."

"More important than how that translates into job loss and less consumer spending for small businesses in the CNMI is how the government will address the issue through a deficit reduction plan," Brennan told *Saipan Tribune*.

As a stakeholder in the CNMI, the Chamber received a copy of the OIA funded report. The Chamber is the largest business organization in the CNMI with over 150 members.

Brennan said the Chamber met with OIA's Babauta twice to discuss the report.

"Those meetings were extremely beneficial. The Chamber conveyed strategy on how best to address revenue generation through projects needing federal administrative support, which would in turn rebuild a private sector tax base," Brennan added.

The figures in the report are not new yet the recommendations, especially coming from the Interior, are worth considering, some stakeholders told *Saipan Tribune*.

These include making sure that the annual budget accommodates known, fixed assets such as utilities and retirement at a "realistic level of spending to which managers can be held accountable."

They also include developing a program evaluation data that will facilitate setting budget priorities based on evidence of relative public benefits instead of across-the-aboard strategies that can lead to insufficient support and unintended waste.

Interior's Babauta presented also presented the report to other government officials, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, students, and other stakeholders.

The report, prepared for the CNMI governor by Deborah Milks and Roger Black under contract to the Graduate School USA, presents factual information that point out potentially profitable avenues of further policy development.

PROS

From Page 1

governor and confirmed by the Senate.

The CNMI is one of only 10 U.S. jurisdictions that still have an appointed attorney general, according to a report prepared by the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which recommended HLI 17-2's passage. Guam also now has an elected AG.

Dela Cruz said the recent process impeaching the governor "has not only made it important to have an elected AG but has proven what happens when the highest law official is under the wings of a governor."

He was referring to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's former attorney general, Edward T. Buckingham, who was mired in controversy since at least 2010.

"Corruption can run rampant and when CNMI and federal laws are ignored blatantly, I plead and ask all who are voting to support HLI 17-2 authorizing election of the attorney general. Let's do it all for our Commonwealth. Again I say in order to begin the restoration of good governance, we must elect our AG," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Dela Cruz cited Buckingham's alleged violation of the Hatch Act when he hosted the governor's delegate candidate in 2010, the AG and the governor's approval of a sole-source $392,406 ARRA management contract to a newly-resigned Cabinet member, Buckingham and Fitial's signing of a $190.8-million power purchase agreement for 25 years, and Buckingham's departure from the CNMI with the help of police and other higher-ups that shielded him from being served summons to face charges of public corruption and Hatch Act violations.

Floor leader George Camacho (R-Saipan), the only House member that voted against the elected AG initiative, said yesterday that "the fears of having an attorney general appointed by the governor is that, should the governor commit a crime, people fear that the AG will not prosecute a sitting governor whom the AG works under."

Camacho said people also fear that the AG is "too political and will not do his or her duties for being in a 'political' office."

He said the solution they offer for the Office of the Attorney General to be free from the governor and from politics is to make the office an elected one, "to be elected at large by the people and only answer to the masses."

"Interestingly, in order to remove politics from the Office of the Attorney General, then it should be an elected office? I disagree with this idea for the fact that any election, inclusive of the retention of judges or board position, having them elected is political in itself," Camacho said.

Camacho said "politics is around us and is very difficult to completely remove."

"It is human to favor one over the other. That is just how we as humans operate. It would be very difficult to imagine how many prosecutions will be performed during an election year of an attorney general. I am certain that the attorney general will be less harsh and less willing to do his or her duty and at the same time ask the people in return for their votes," he said.

Camacho said the issue of an appointed AG over an elected AG will forever be debated but he feels that "having the AG answer to only one person, the governor, is less political than having to ask the public at large for their approval."

"Having an attorney general elected will only increase politics to that office," he added.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the Fitial administration believes that there are pros and cons to having an elected AG.

One particular concern is the possibility that as an elected position, the true intent of justice may be "compromised" by an incumbent elected AG's pursuit of re-election, he said.

"If anything, rather than 'depoliticizing' this position, it may very well add even more political pressure instead. Quite frankly, we need to recognize the possibility that an elected AG could very well use the opportunity as a springboard for further political aspiration. We wouldn't want to see an elected AG go against the Legislature or the administration to further his agenda simply for political reasons and not for the interest of justice," Demapan said.

The press secretary added that while this a very contentious issue, "ultimately, the administration recognizes that it's up to the people to decide."

But still, Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) believes an elected AG is better than the current system of having the governor appoint an AG, the highest law enforcement officer in the CNMI.

"People should vote yes to the elected AG initiative to help make the AG position free from political interference," he said, also referring to the controversies involving Buckingham.

Rep. Demapan chairs the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which recommended passage of the elected AG initiative.

Under the elected AG initiative, the elected AG would have a term of four years and a two-term limit; must be a resident and domiciliary of the CNMI for at least five years instead of the current three years; must be at least 35 years old; will have a salary of $150,000 a year subject to the Legislature's modification; and may only be removed for cause.

If voters approve it, the first election for AG will be in 2014.

Besides the elected AG initiative, there are two others on the ballot: the pension obligation bond initiative and the Northern Marianas College mission statement initiative.

Lawsuit filed over confirmation of Barcinas as gaming commish

A teacher assistant filed yesterday in Superior Court a taxpayers' lawsuit for the alleged illegal and unethical confirmation of the appointment of Lydia F. Barcinas as commissioner of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

Ricardo S. Quichocho also named defendants in the lawsuit 13th Tinian Municipal Council members Estevan P. Cabrera and Joseph SN. Cruz.

Barcinas is a former chief executive officer of the Tinian Mayor's Office. Cabrera is also deputy director of the Tinian Department of Public Works, while Cruz is deputy director of the Tinian Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Quichocho is suing Cabrera and Cruz for taxpayer's right of action: illegal expenditure of public funds, breach of fiduciary duty, and violation of the Open Government Meetings and Records Act.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to obtain comments from Cabrera and Cruz.

Quichocho wants the court to declare Barcinas' confirmation as illegal and unethical, therefore null and void.

He wants the court to declare Cabrera and Cruz in violation of the Government Ethics Code Act and the Open Government Meetings and Records Act.

He is asking the court to issue a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction to prevent Barcinas from performing her duties as gaming commissioner pending the resolution and final disposition of the case.

Also, he wants the court to issue a TRO and preliminary injunction to stop Cabrera and Cruz from confirming other appointees.

Quichocho cited a separate lawsuit filed by Raynaldo M. Cing and Tinian councilman Patrick A. Manglona, where they successfully obtained a TRO against Cabrera, Cruz, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, and Don Farrell. That lawsuit prompted Farrell to resign the gaming commissioner's position.

Subsequently, the mayor appointed two nominees: Barcinas and Matthew C. Masga.

On Oct. 10, 2012, the Tinian Municipal Council confirmed the appointment of Masga only, with the only non-conflicted council member, Patrick A. Manglona, voting, Quichocho said.

According to him, on Oct. 20, 2012, Cabrera and Cruz confirmed Barcinas' appointment. Since that confirmation, Mayor Dela Cruz re-hired his brother-in-law, Farrell, for the $60,000 per year position as chief executive officer of the mayor's office.

Attorneys Ramon K. Quichocho and Michael N. Evangelista are counsels for plaintiff Ricardo Quichocho.

The plaintiff is attorney Quichocho's adopted brother. Attorneys Quichocho and Evangelista are also counsels for Raynaldo M. Cing and Patrick A. Manglona who sued over the appointment of Farrell as gaming commissioner. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Kilili draws backing of 4 congressmen

Four leading members of the U.S. House of Representatives are featured in a new series of print advertisements from the Kilili for Congress campaign.

Former House majority leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland, vice chair of the Democratic National Committee Mike Honda of California, Hispanic Caucus chair Charlie Gonzalez of Texas, and civil rights icon John Lewis of Georgia all support Sablan's re-election in the ads, which have begun running in local newspapers. A fifth ad in the "Congressional Endorsement" series lists the 36 Members of Congress who contributed funds to Sablan's campaign.

"I can only say how grateful I am that these four members of the House of Representatives would take the time and make the effort to support my re-election," Sablan said.

"Each one of these representatives is a person of considerable experience in Congress, who has been kind enough to share their knowledge with me and help me learn the ropes over the last four years.

"It is an honor that they would know endorse the work I have done by speaking directly to voters in the Northern Marianas in this way.

"I am also most grateful to all 36 of my colleagues who dug into their own pockets and contributed to my campaign. Without their generous financial support it would be more difficult to pay for advertising, brochures, posters, and all the tools that we use to communicate with voters here in the Northern Marianas.

"Everyone needs funding in a campaign and to have other Members of Congress take money they could use for their own re-elections and share it with me is very humbling," Sablan said.

It is believed this is the first time a Northern Marianas congressional candidate has received endorsements from Members of Congress.

Each of the four advertisements, featuring a congressman who supports Sablan, includes the text of an open letter from that congressman to the people of the Northern Marianas, focusing on an aspect of Sablan's work in Congress.

Lewis draws the connection between the civil rights movement of the 1960s and Sablan's fight to obtain parity for the Northern Mariana Islands under federal law.

Hoyer, one of the great orators now in the House, speaks of Sablan's willingness to bring causes important to the Northern Marianas directly to debate on the floor of the House and to use that pulpit to educate Congress about the people of the Marianas.

Honda tips his hat to Sablan's tact and diplomacy and the effectiveness of those skills in gathering both Republican and Democratic support on Northern Marianas issues.

Gonzalez recalls Sablan's central role in securing Medicaid funding for the Northern Marianas by working with the President in the development of Obamacare.

"These are kind words, indeed, coming from such distinguished members of the U.S. Congress," Sablan said.

Two of the current House members who contributed funds to Kilili for Congress, Rep. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico and Rep. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii, are strongly favored to win seats in the U.S. Senate on Nov. 6. ***(PR)***

Woman gets 1-yr. probation for lying in a passport application

The federal court has imposed a 12-month probation sentence on a woman who was convicted for lying in the passport application for her daughter.

Aifang Ye was also directed Tuesday to serve five months of home confinement, perform 50 hours of community service, and pay a $200 special assessment fee.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also ordered Ye, a Chinese national, to report to U.S. immigration for removal proceedings.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton recommended home confinement. Ye's counsel, David Banes, recommended probation.

In June 2012, a jury found Ye guilty of conspiracy to make a false statement on a passport application and making a false statement in a passport application.

Ye's brother-in-law, Zhenyan Cheng, who posed as the father of the child, was acquitted.

According to the U.S. government, Ye came to Saipan on Sept. 12, 2011, to give birth. Her Chinese husband came with her but left shortly on Sept. 16, 2011.

After giving birth to her daughter on Feb. 28, 2012, Ye applied for a U.S. passport for the child at the Saipan Passport Office.

The prosecution alleged that, fearing trouble under Chinese law if she obtained from her husband a notarized statement about her daughter, Ye made Cheng pose as the father of his brother's child.

The child is Ye's second child. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

REPUBLICAN PARTY
GRAND RALLY
Saturday, November 3, 2012
10:00 AM ~ 4:00 PM
Garapan Fishing Base
UNITED WE STAND. VOTE REPUBLICAN.
Please join us celebrate unity in our community!
Paid for by the Republican Party of the NMI

Remember in November!
As a result of realized savings and revenues,
the Fitial Administration proposed a budget that would
RESTORE THE 80-HOUR PAY PERIOD
for all government employees.
In an attempt to BLOCK improved household income
for thousands of families in the CNMI,
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
Voted in favor, but "WITH RESERVATION!"
Meanwhile, these representatives VOTED NO!:
Rep. Janet U. Maratita
Rep. Antonio P. Sablan
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb
Rep. Frank S. Dela Cruz
Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez
Rep. Ray N. Yumul
Just as they said "NO" to you,
you can say "NO" to them on November 6th.
United We Stand. Please Vote REPUBLICAN.
Paid for by the Republican Party of the NMI because you deserve to know.

218 cases of recalled cereals removed from CNMI stores

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental Health said yesterday that its inspectors found and recalled from CNMI stores a total of 218 cases of Kellogg's products after weeks of thorough inspection.

However, the agency is not taking any action yet on the latest recall of some Korean ramen and noodle products, many of which are available in many stores on island.

Lily Kapileo, inspection and enforcement unit staff, bared that a total of 4,813 lbs of recalled Kellogg's items will be disposed of this week by the distributor in the presence of bureau inspectors to ensure that everything will be destroyed.

Saipan Tribune learned that the bulk of items removed from store shelves came from Saipan establishments.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued weeks ago a recall notice for Kellogg's Frosted & Unfrosted Mini-Wheats bite size due to possible presence of fragments of flexible metal mesh from a manufacturing part. The voluntary recall also included Mini-Wheats Unfrosted Bite Size.

Kapileo, meantime, said that BEH is not aware and has yet to act on any recall order for some Korean ramen and noodle products. She said BEH only recalls products based on orders from the FDA, World Health Organization, or Centers for Disease Control.

South Korea's national food and drug agency recalled nine types of noodles from stores since Oct. 25 after discovering that they contain a substance called benzopyrene, known in the United States as a probable carcinogen.

Some of the affected Korean-manufactured ramen products are Nongshim's Mild Neoguri, Spicy Neoguri, large and small Neoguri Cup Noodles, large Saewootang Cup Noodles, and Seng Seng Udong, among others. Since the recall, many products have been pulled out from stores in countries like the Philippines, Taiwan, Mongolia, and China, among others.

Kapileo told *Saipan Tribune* that the bureau will "examine" the issue and communicate with the FDA about the recalled products from Korea.

NMC FOUNDATION:

'New methods are needed to help boost revenue for NMC'

Dr. Alan Markoff, interim president for the NMC Foundation, stressed yesterday that the move to hire consultant Strategies for Philanthropy was driven by the important and timely need to elevate the fundraising efforts for the Northern Marianas College to the next level.

"Because of limited financial support from government sources, it has become increasingly necessary to expand our financial support by raising money from other sources," Markoff said in a statement.

A presentation by the college's Office of Institutional Effectiveness earlier noted that local appropriation for NMC per student has been declining from 2008 to 2010. In fact, appropriation per full-time student was less when compared to the average of peer institutions.

In past years, the college has been exclusively focusing on special event fundraising; its signature event is the golf tournament. Other events included concerts and shows.

However, unlike other college foundations across the nation, the NMC Foundation had yet to implement other strategies to help raise funds to support and advance student learning at the college, Markoff said.

"We wanted to look at any and all other strategies, including involving the alumni, local foundations, as well as off-island foundations to increase major gifts," added Markoff.

The NMC Foundation hired Strategies for Philanthropy because its CEO, Steve West, brings a background of 35 years in fund development in the U.S. mainland. This background includes running annual support programs to special events to multi-million dollar capital campaigns.

He has assisted foundations with reorganization similar to what the NMC Foundation is attempting, and is known for his strategic planning and board development expertise.

Additionally, West has served as a board member and chair of the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy. AHP's 5,000 members represent more than 2,200 health care facilities in the United States and Canada. They embody all aspects of health care fundraising, from executive directors and chief development officers, to major gift officers, annual campaign managers, event coordinators and grant writers. West has also served as an executive director of numerous foundations—all charged with major gift fundraising.

"We believe that Mr. West's background, experience, and proven success in fund development will help us identify ways to build on what has been achieved in the past so it can play a more significant role in the financial stability of the college, a chief accreditation concern," said Markoff. ***(NMC)***

Commerce works with pawnshops to curb rampant burglaries

Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar, as the CNMI banking director, met with the newly created CNMI Pawnbrokers Association, on Friday, Oct. 26, to strengthen efforts to combat the rampant burglaries on the islands.

The CNMI Pawnbrokers Association, under the leadership of president Wilfredo Ching and board of directors chair Jhun Calma, along with its nine members, came together because of Administrative Notice No. 12-01, which Igisomar issued on Oct. 10, 2012. The notice informed all pawnbrokers about the existence of Commonwealth Code, Title 4 section 5641 et. seq. Mainly, the reminder is on application requirements, asset minimum requirements, customer fees, business hours, and reporting requirements.

At the meeting, Igisomar stressed that the notice is simply a starting point for a dialogue.

"Understanding pawnbrokers gives us a better perspective on how we can better support our community as we mutually counter the ongoing burglaries," said Igisomar. "With so many pawnbrokers, we need to make sure the community and the brokers themselves are protected, through regular compliance checks and notices."

A proposed House Bill 17-279 is currently circulating with the intention of providing police officers full access to pawnbrokers when investigating purported stolen items.

Banking examiner Magdalena "Maggie" C. Camacho, who accompanied Igisomar at the meeting, said: "In realigning the pawnbrokers (aka pawnshops) to what the existing law and regulations require, and if they are diligent, compliance should not be exhaustive."

There are currently 19 pawnshops in the CNMI, with 18 on Saipan, and one on Rota. There is no pawnshop on the island of Tinian. Of the total 19 shops in the CNMI, they are owned by eight different owners.

Although the notice is just a reiteration and reminder of existing laws and regulations, the pawnbroker association members were a bit concerned, as some of the requirements may be steep, especially with respect to required minimum assets, and limitations on fees.

"We decided to reactivate the association and reorganize ourselves, in response to Secretary Igisomar's Administrative Notice No. 12-01, which placed all the pawnbrokers on notice," stated Ching. "We believe as a group, we can better monitor and voice our interest collectively, as well as better protect our community."

Additionally, Ching stressed that all the members be composed of all pawnshop owners on island.

"Contrary to public belief that we support criminal activities, that is not so, as we actually and indirectly deter criminal activities by requiring photocopying of individual identification card for all transactions 110 percent of the time," said Ching. "Therefore, the association pledged to cooperate with the government to counter criminal activities that may involve pawn dealings." ***(Office of the Governor)***

Scheduled power outage this Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power interruption this Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012, from 8:30am to 12:30pm, affecting As Lito and Koblervilled.

The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize the primary lines so the CUC line crew may work safely as they replace a rotten primary power pole in Koblerville on Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road. In addition, a separate crew will be performing systems maintenance on 13 power poles by replacing deteriorated cross arm bolts along As Lito Road from Shell Gas Station in Dandan to the Mobil Gas Station in Koblerville.

Water services may be affected in the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Areas affected are As Lito Road (JTV Bldg., Happy Market, Wushin Corp. [LP Gas], and Guangdong), Dokko Pl., Kostat Dr., Tofuk Pl., Tika Ln., As Lito Dr. (Saipan International School), Tanu Ln., Lana Dr., and Atool Pl.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this power interruption may have on the community and asks for the community's continued patience and understanding as the crews continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions. ***(CUC)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DOF/REV-023

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO PROVIDE PRINTING SERVICES FOR ALL TAX FORMS FOR DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, CENTRAL OFFICE, DANDAN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT IS DUE NO LATER THAN **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, NOVEMBER 13, 2012** AND ADDRESSED TO MS. KIT DICKINSON OR MRS. LORNA SABLAN AT TELEPHONE NUMBER (670) 664-1098 OR BY FAX TO (670) 664-1015.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ LARISSA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LIANGXIANG L. HEMLEY Petitioner,	)	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0080**
vs.	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
JAMESON P. HEMLEY Respondent.	)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is **P.O. Box 502592** as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 13th day of September, 2012.

/s/Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ErJiangLi Guan Manglona Petitioner,	)	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0448**
vs.	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
Nobert King Manglona Respondent.	)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is **PMB 1266 Box 10003, Saipan MP 96950** as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 26th day of September, 2012.

/s/ Clerk of Court

We DESERVE to know the TRUTH.

4 years of promises. Zero results.

According to
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Delegate Kilili is a FAILING leader.

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Obviously, Kilili DOES NOT work for you.

We deserve better than zero.
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We deserve someone who will work with their colleagues
to pass legislation that will help the CNMI.
On November 6th, we can turn things around by voting for

DR. IGNACIA TUDELA DEMAPAN for U.S. DELEGATE

Paid for by the Republican Party of the NMI because you deserve to know the truth.

JG Sablan, DPL engaged in battle for TRO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JG Sablan Rock Quarry Inc. and the Department of Public Lands are battling for a temporary restraining order and injunction in connection with their legal dispute over a repair shop located on public land in Lower Base.

According to court records, JG Sablan Rock Quarry and its owner, John T. Sablan, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, filed in Superior Court on Oct. 10, 2012, a lawsuit against DPL for the termination of their repair shop permit on Dec. 16, 2009.

On Oct. 19, 2012, DPL, through the Office of the Attorney General, moved the lawsuit from the Superior Court to the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

On Oct. 26, 2012, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman granted JG Sablan's request for a TRO. Wiseman prohibited DPL and its agents or employees from entering JG Sablan's quarry pending the resolution and final disposition of the case.

The judge agreed that this matter is of public concern and interest because it involves an alleged unlawful eviction by a government agency.

After the TRO was issued, Quichocho told *Saipan Tribune* that DPL is on a roll to abuse people's rights.

Quichocho said his clients are pleased with Wiseman's granting of the TRO as "it clearly seems that only a court order can stop DPL's abuse of power."

On Monday, DPL, through the Office of the Attorney General, filed in federal court a response to the lawsuit and counterclaims against JG Sablan and Sablan. The OAG also asked the District Court to quash Wiseman's TRO and suspend the Superior Court proceedings.

In DPL's counterclaims, assistant attorney general Charles Brasington also sought a TRO from the federal court, preventing JG Sablan and Sablan from entering, using, or possessing the quarry and repair shop.

Brasington also asked the federal court to issue a permanent injunction stopping the defendants from entering, using, or possessing the shop.

Brasington wants the court to declare that J.G. Sablan has been unlawfully occupying the quarry since July 2012.

In DPL's motion to quash, the government lawyer argued that since the lawsuit was removed from the Superior Court on Oct. 19, Wiseman's TRO was void from the beginning.

In plaintiffs' reply to the motion to quash, Quichocho said the federal court does not have jurisdiction over the lawsuit because not only are there no federal claims but DPL and co-defendants' notice of removal is deficient.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 1, 1999

Senate divided on Tinian seat vacancy

The Senate remains undecided on what to do with the seat left vacant by former Sen. Herman Manglona who resigned nearly two months ago, despite appeals from some sectors on Tinian to declare a vacancy to allow the immediate holding of special elections in the island municipality. Senators have diverse opinions on the case, which is the first ever in the Commonwealth's history, but it is unlikely they will resolve the differences before the Nov. 1 midterm polls. Sen. David Cing, who chairs the Credential Committee created by the upper house, said the panel will decide on Manglona's fate when the court hands down its sentence on the embattled ex-senator in December. 21.

Court says NMC immune from suit

Saying officials of a government entity are immune from lawsuits, Federal Judge Alex Munson threw out Friday the sexual harassment case filed by a former Northern Marianas College student against college officials and the US education secretary. In dismissing the civil action filed by Meredith Oden, Munson invoked an earlier US Supreme Court ruling which holds that a school district cannot be held liable in damages for a complaint that does not involve official policy, such as a teacher's sexual harassment of a student. "I'm happy that Judge Munson agreed with our analysis. The college investigated the complaint and held a hearing. The judge agreed that the college did the right thing," said assistant attorney general Sean Frink, who represented NMC, and its officials.

Nov. 1, 2001

More funds vs bio-terrorism eyed

As the nation braces for bioterrorism, the CNMI is expected to receive additional federal grants from the office of President Bush. No less than the Commonwealth's premiere anti-terrorism agency—the Emergency Management Office—made the anticipation, after coming out from a meeting with Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives yesterday afternoon. EMO Director Gregorio DeLeon Guerrero said the money may come from an appropriation by the Homeland Defense Office, which forms part of the Office of the US President.

Teno seeks Guam's help on airport security

Amid rejection by the US Pacific Command to activate the US Army Reserve stationed on Saipan, the CNMI is tapping the assistance of neighboring Guam to detail its National Guard to augment security at the Saipan International Airport. Unlike the Army Reserve, which may only be activated by the federal military, Guam's National Guard is an elite paramilitary unit that may be called by its governor to perform functions of military nature such as providing security and even extending services during emergency situations. The National Guard may also be activated by the federal military, but the guardsmen automatically become soldiers when this happens, a federal official said.

Nov. 1, 2003

Economic recovery still 2 years away

After reeling from consecutive economic lapses, the chances of an immediate economic recovery for the Northern Marianas is unfeasible at this point but more likely within the next two years. According to Wali Osman, Bank of Hawaii's Senior Fellow for the Pacific Economies at the East West Center, the Northern Marianas is actually in a recession, as it continues to feel the effects of the prolonged Japanese economic stagnation, the 9-11 terror attacks, the SARS impact, and the ongoing war in Iraq. In a news briefing Friday at the Bank of Hawaii conference room, Osman said that Saipan, which relies heavily on its tourism and garment industries, will recover from its economic doldrums when the Japan economic situation improves.

'Fed takeover no longer an issue'

The Commonwealth's economy offers a unique link between East Asia and the United States via tourism, garment manufacturing, and possibly higher education. What's more, in this small community, more than 64 percent of the total population is employed-an important and beneficial facet of the local economy and one that makes the Northern Marianas one of the most self-sufficient under the U.S. flag. These were observations presented yesterday by Dr. Wali M. Osman, Bank of Hawaii's Senior Fellow for the Pacific Economies at the East West Center.

CDA prodded to help create investors' center for the NMI

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar wants the Commonwealth Development Authority to be involved in setting up a business or investors' center that would market the CNMI to off-island investors.

During the CDA board meeting on Friday, Igisomar emphasized the need to create the investors' center, saying the capacity and resources of his department is "really overextended" at present.

Igisomar said this business center is not part of the "one-stop center" that is one of the items discussed in a bill that seeks to transfer the administrative responsibilities of the Worker's Compensation from the NMI Retirement Fund to Commerce.

The bill is now sitting on the governor's desk, he said.

Igisomar said the Commonwealth's free trade zone law "supposedly and historically" created a board that would market the islands to outside business investors but the board "never took off."

He recounted approaching the CDA administration "a long time ago" regarding the agency's role in the development of the Northern Marianas but was told that CDA "should just focus on the loans and keep quiet and stay out of any development."

"I know that this is not true, that's why I'm bringing this plea to this board because maybe we can partner up together with respect to these investments," he said.

Igisomar disclosed that every time he receives an email inquiry from interested investors from China, Russia, and other foreign countries, what he does is send them two documents: CDA's development business guide and the governor's business guide, which both date back to 2006.

Igisomar

"There's really nothing else I can say because I'm overextended and I don't have a staff that deals with business operations," said Igisomar, adding that he also forwards these business inquiries to Richard Pierce of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce who also does his best to help.

"I'm hoping we'll get into that business center. I'm not sure how we're going to kick it off but we need to have an office," said the secretary.

Igisomar cited the importance of having a one-stop center on Saipan, saying it will be convenient to business owners who would not have to go all over the island when processing their permits and licenses.

CDA board chair Pedro Itibus said they are open to further discussions on Igisomar's proposal.

Enforcement task force

Igisomar also disclosed that Commerce is currently in the process of creating an "enforcement task force" that would evaluate government agencies involved in enforcement actions by doing an inventory of certificates, licenses, and permits they issue.

He said the task force committee, to be composed of Commerce, Workforce Investment Agency, Department of Labor, and the Finance secretary, will consolidate this inventory list and prioritize which ones generate revenue for the government.

"It's mimicking what they did about five years ago on the cash receipts BGR task force. It's the same thing, except now we're going to expand it to the entire island and hopefully get an inventory as well of what permits are out there," he said.

Igisomar said the task force will kick off by Feb. 1 or March 1, 2013.

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ABC GREEN FOUNT 1 LITER $8.50
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ABC MASTER SPRAY POWDER 1 KG. $13.25
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GRAINING SAND 25 KG. $23.00
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BLACK : $8.25
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Creating Jobs. Putting People to Work.

**Advocate for inclusion of CNMI in any Legislation that will help create Job Opportunities.
Dr. Demapan will work to get more federal funding to help residents get the Technical Skills Education and Training to support the CNMI's transition to a local workforce and lower Food Stamp dependency for quality lives. She will also work with Congress to seek funding for a "Repatriation Program". The return of our top professionals from the mainland is badly needed in our transition to a local workforce.**

PLEASE VOTE REPUBLICAN

Paid for by the Committee-to-Elect Ignacia Tudela Demapan

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 260

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Stephen King book gets kicked out of high school

As a bestselling horror novelist, Stephen King made his bones and his fortune by frightening the wits out of readers. Yet it was his collection of non-horror novellas with themes more societal than scary that was briefly banned this month from a high school outside Sacramento, Calif.

"Different Seasons" isn't on the American Library Association's inventory of 100 most frequently challenged books (the Harry Potter series tops the most recent list), but a rape scene in one story led to a complaint from a parent at Rocklin High School. The book wasn't part of any course curriculum; instead, it was available in the school library for students to read or check out. Two of its stories have been made into movies: "The Shawshank Redemption" and "Stand by Me."

A school committee voted to pull the book from the library shelves, with only 17-year-old senior Amanda Wong dissenting. The other members of the committee, all adults, reportedly didn't even read the book through before voting.

Amanda complained to the school board and got results. The superintendent ordered the book placed back on the shelves while a district-wide committee considers the matter. That committee should recommend keeping the book.

Picking tomes for a school library is a sensitive business. Unlike the books at a public library, which must appeal to the broadest spectrum of the community, school librarians usually comply with policies set by individual school districts. Within that policy, as the designated experts on literature, they must choose books that are appropriate in content and difficulty for students at various grade levels. Collections generally include books that tie in with the curriculum, books that challenge and uplift as well as those that are simply engaging enough to entice students to read. Books that are part of course work are more tightly controlled because all students are required to read them. But in the library, students should have a choice.

There might be rare instances in which a school should override the librarian's decisions, when a book clearly violates any acceptable standard for youth—as, say, "The Story of O" would. But the overriding philosophy should be to keep books on the shelves in almost all circumstances, valuing access to ideas, even unpopular ideas, over the objections of one faction or another. Books for high schools do not need to be utterly devoid of disturbing material, which abounds in classic literature, to be worth reading. The murder-suicide committed by an impoverished little boy in Thomas Hardy's "Jude the Obscure" is arguably more horrifying than anything King ever dished up.

A single complaint about a single scene in a book is not valid grounds for taking it off the shelves. Fortunately, a student was there to teach the adults that banning books is a serious matter that calls for more careful consideration.

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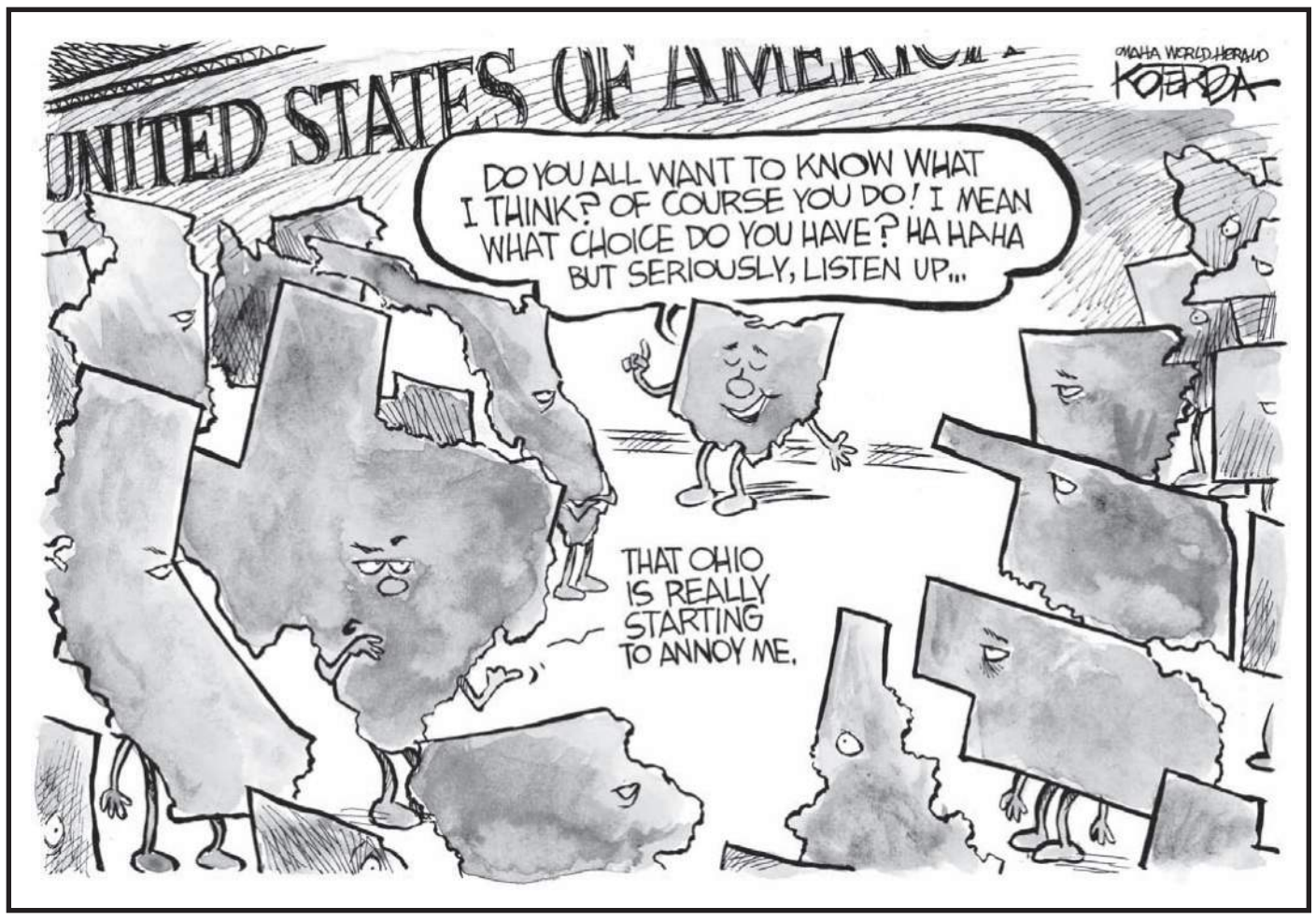

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DO YOU ALL WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK? OF COURSE YOU DO! I MEAN WHAT CHOICE DO YOU HAVE? HA HAHA BUT SERIOUSLY, LISTEN UP...
THAT OHIO IS REALLY STARTING TO ANNOY ME.
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA

A rising tide

"Each problem has hidden in it an opportunity so powerful that it literally dwarfs the problem. The greatest success stories were created by people who recognized a problem and turned it into an opportunity."—**Joseph Sugarman**

By GLEN HUNTER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

The CNMI has a problem. That problem is corruption. We are all aware of this problem as we have witnessed staggering levels of government corruption. The local media has covered many of these acts of corruption, which most of us find disturbing and unacceptable.

Corruption harms everyone in our community. It pulls money and resources away from public purposes and funnels them to the pockets of a few. How many jobs could have been created with the money that has been stolen from us? How many people could have benefited from improvements to our schools, our utilities, our hospital? How many villages could have realized better sanitation, nicer parks, safer streets? How many of our *man'amko*, how many of our brothers and sisters who are ill, with disabilities, or indigent, could have benefited from well-funded social services?

Corruption knows no race, no gender, and no political party, and it is not unique to the CNMI. What any community suffering from corruption needs is a rising tide of citizens who are determined to fight that corruption and resist going down the road toward a failed state—citizens who are willing to roll up their sleeves and take action to turn things around.

We are that rising tide, and we have before us an opportunity so powerful that it dwarfs the problem of corruption. Each and every person who stands up and speaks out against government corruption is part of the solution. It is not a novel idea. Many other communities have turned to the power of their citizens to correct rampant government abuse. We can do the same. In fact, we've already begun.

So many people in our community are working, each in their unique way, to fight corruption. We are witnessing growing public outrage against corrupt government officials. We are witnessing more and more people deciding they will no longer tolerate abuses of power by the leaders they have trusted to serve them.

Several weeks ago, I was the target of a senseless act of vandalism. Since then, I have been overwhelmed by the words of encouragement and gestures of kindness and generosity I received from so many people. I have always been awkward at accepting help from others. Over the past few months I have been learning how to alter that mindset and accept help when it is offered. The money donated has far exceeded the amount needed to fix the damage caused, and the donations and offers to help continue to pour in.

I want to thank everyone who has reached out to help not just me, in terms of addressing that particular act of vandalism, but our entire community, in terms of a much broader problem of corruption. So much forward progress has happened in so many areas, and it's happening more quickly because each person is not working alone.

They say that to move a mountain, all you have to do is move one stone at a time. To speed up the process, you can try to move many stones at once, but it's far better to work with many people, each moving one stone at a time. Many people are doing what they can now, each in their own way to move these mountains of corruption, one stone at a time.

We are moving mountains. I have never been more hopeful about the CNMI. So much positive change is occurring in our community. In the last few years we have seen the birth of an active citizenry. The most powerful weapon against government corruption is courageous citizens who confront corruption directly. We have always been blessed with a few brave people in our community who have actively challenged corruption individually with truth on their side. Today what we are witnessing is the harnessing of the power of the people against corruption.

Everywhere I see people finding opportunities amidst the problems. When I was subject to vandalism, I decided to also look for the opportunity. I would like to dedicate the donations I have received to serve as seed money for a new CNMI foundation called Rising Tide. Rising Tide's mission will be to combat government corruption by investigating allegations of corruption, communicating our findings, and mobilizing citizens to take action. Similar groups exist throughout the world, and we do not need to reinvent the wheel, but simply learn from other models and adapt what could work here.

This group will take shape over the next few months, and we will keep the public informed as we organize the board, establish our bylaws, and sharpen our mission. However, in the next few days, we will hit the ground running with a couple of projects. One will be on CNMI Citizenship Day, Nov. 5, in which we will launch a Citizen Award program in honor of a model citizen who will always be with us in spirit, the late Ruth Tighe.

Another project will take place on the following day, Nov. 6. It will be a larger and more intensive endeavor that will require around 60 volunteers, committing hours of their time. Nov. 6 is Election Day and it is a CNMI holiday.

If you would like to help with either or both of these projects by volunteering your time, donations, manpower, or supplies, please send me an email at glenhunter@gmail.com and we will contact you with more details.

Let's all continue to be on the right side of history, and support this rising tide of hope for our CNMI.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

16 and fearing for our future

They say that there are two types of people in this world: Those who make a difference and those who make excuses. Well, we can say that our elected "leaders" aren't exactly making a difference. It has come to my attention that our leaders get paid a lot more than they actually deserve. The numbers show that the money distributed by the government is given in such inappropriate portions.

I was interested to write this letter after we got a visit from the Secretary of the Department of Insular Affairs. I was alarmed and especially intrigued by the numbers the chart and facts showed. About 34 percent of federal money is given to our education and the amount of money given to our government officials is almost half that. Does anyone else see the disproportion within this? These so-called "officials" get paid way more than they deserve. I was especially surprised at the fact that the Health Department only receives 9.1 percent of the funds. It seems to me that our elected "leaders" only care about themselves.

I'm only 16, still in high school, and I fear for the future of our islands. The debt of the CNMI is already up to $370K. What in the world has the government been spending this money on? Where has this money been going? Essential parts of the Commonwealth are about to close down because of the lack of funds within the CNMI. I worry where our islands will go from here. All I know is that the generation of today has to step up and voice their opinion. I am one of many that is extremely disturbed by these facts. The election is fast approaching and, although I cannot vote, it is important for all of the individuals who can to really think hard about who you're voting for. Our future now lies in your hands with the leaders that you choose to run our islands. Think wisely, CNMI. Now is your chance to make a difference.

Kaylani Lebria
Papago, Saipan

A lesson for Robert Puhalla

As a staunch supporter of Sen. Luis Palacios Crisostimo, I want to take this opportunity to respond to Richard Puhalla's open letter to the good senator questioning why Crisostimo has not withdrawn his candidacy due to his illness.

Based on your letter, it appears that had you been in the senator's shoes, fighting cancer, you would have already given up any hope of running for another term in office. While you are entitled to your opinion and your own choices in life, so too is the senator. Because you do not know Senator Crisostimo, as a friend and as a public servant, you are ignorant to his character. Senator Crisostimo is a fighter for our people and for his life. To me, his decision to continue to run for another term despite his illness is indicative of his devotion to the people of Saipan. Anyone who knows the senator will tell you that he is a generous man with a big heart, always wanting and willing to give back to our people. Even before becoming a public official, Senator Crisostimo was a philanthropist whose donations ran the gamut from schools to sports to other sickly individuals and struggling families. That is the Senator Crisostimo that I know and the people who elected him into office for the past two terms know.

I cannot begin to tell you how many young people Senator Crisostimo has inspired and supported financially, educationally, and personally. If you want to know his real track record with our people, I suggest you go out and ask our constituents. He may not have been able to make it to every session, but I know without a shadow of doubt that he has improved the lives of more people on Saipan more than any other politician. Senator Crisostimo is a not a career politician who made his fortune off of the misfortune of the public, like many politicians on our islands. He is a self-made man from humble beginnings whose only agenda is to fight for his people, even when he is already engaged in a battle with cancer. He will get better, and he will come back 10 times the man he was before cancer. To you, a good politician has a perfect attendance record and votes "yes" or "no" on every issue. To me, a good politician is one whose impact on his community cannot truly be quantified due to its greatness.

I do not believe that any of Senator Crisotomo's extended family would agree with you that he should withdraw his candidacy. I am his chairman and have been to his committee meetings and have known his family for many years and they overwhelmingly support his intent to run for re-election. Everyone is being positive and praying for the senator's speedy recovery. I deeply admire his commitment to our people. I thought I knew exactly the man Luis P. Crisostimo was before he got cancer, but it turns out I was wrong. He has surpassed my wildest expectations of how much of a fighter he is. To you, a good politician is one whose immune system is strong and whose arms, legs, and mouth are all functioning. To me, a good politician is one who will fight his hardest for his people, regardless of his physical setbacks.

Actions speak louder than words. I believe that our government's real issue isn't that the senator is battling cancer and has missed a few sessions, but that we do not have more good-hearted men like Senator Crisostimo in office. In fact, I wish we had more Senator Crisostimos in office. Don't focus on his illness. Focus on the man he is, sick or not. I'm not sure who fooled you, but I'm here to tell you the truth, a vote for Luis P. Crisostimo is a vote for a better Marianas.

Pete S. Arriola
Chairman, Committee to Elect Senator Luis Palacios Crisostimo

Nothing Nine

There's nothing noble about the "noble nine." They've offered us nothing. And what do they have on the governor? Nothing. They're the Nothing Nine. Do you think they wanted to impeach the governor because of their concern for the people's wellbeing? If you believe that, I'll sell you a gold-plated bridge to Guam. Anyone who's studied these legislators' records knows that the people's wellbeing is just about last on their list of concerns, if it makes the list at all. What's really driving them is their own political power grab. The Nothing Nine are the same politicians who drove the CNMI into its current quagmire. When Governor Fitial sought to restrain unnecessary spending, they sought to raise it. When Governor Fitial worked hard to restore government employees' 80 hours, the Nothing Nine opposed it. They supported reduced work hours, and continued the suffering by government employees' families. Meanwhile, none of the Nothing Nine offered to reduce their own salaries or discretionary budgets. They like cost-cutting only when it doesn't affect them. And they hold the governor to the highest standards, but have no such standards for themselves. How can we listen to lectures about "good government" and "corruption" from these Nothing Nine who play politics every day and night and who greedily raise their own discretionary budgets instead of doing anything for the CNMI's economy? How can we blame Governor Fitial's "inaction" when that blame is cast by the most useless Nothing Nine? They haven't done anything for the Commonwealth. Not even one workable proposal has come from any of these Nothing Nine. Their leader, Diego Benavente, resigned in the middle of his term in order to pursue his own behind-the-scenes business interests—is that any kind of model of leadership? And how amazing it is that Benavente thinks himself better than Governor Fitial!

Here's how it works: An election is coming up. These Nothing Nine legislators are worried because they have nothing to show for their time in the Legislature. Time to cook up some campaign fodder. Hey, why not find a scapegoat for problems caused by global economic decline and decades of inept legislatures. Let's blame it all on one man, an easy target, and not even a Chamorro. Let's blame it on Fitial. Sound like a plan? So now the Nothing Nine see their opening. There are some trumped-up charges they can grab a hold of, and try to take down the governor. If they can do it, there will be rewards for all: cheap votes, expensive dinners, and lots of discretionary funds and salaries. No one will question them. No one will try to hold them to their duties, as Governor Fitial has been doing. Nothing Nine: they're the problem, not the solution. This Election Day, let's cut these Nothing Nine names from the government payroll. You know who they are. The Nothing Nine have given the Commonwealth nothing, and nothing is what we'll give them in the voting booth.

Carmen DLG Sablan
Dan Dan Village, Saipan

Dirty politics

This is in response to Carmen DLG Sablan's letter to the editor ("Denying reality," *Saipan Tribune*, Oct. 26, 2012). We disagree with your notion that Mr. Glen Hunter was grandstanding when he pushed for the impeachment of the present CNMI governor. Mr. Hunter has the right—protected under the U.S. Constitution—to raise issues.

What we don't understand is why our own people would label Mr. Hunter a foreigner within U.S. soil. The 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees Mr. Hunter his right to migrate to any state or territory without being deprived of his constitutional rights. We need to come to an understanding that each one of us throughout the Mariana islands is afforded the protection of the supreme law of the land. It was disturbing to hear or read in our media that one of our own was being alienated based on his/her race during the CNMI House impeachment proceeding relating to our governor on corruption charges.

But what really puzzled us was the timing of all these corruption charges against our governor. Based on our observation, this is the second time during an election year that our leadership came up with a strategy to win an election. The way we see it, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Propst, and many others are barking corruption against the present administration for political gain for their dear friend, Mr. Kilili Sablan.

It is unethical for Mr. Sablan to get involved with the petition for the U.S. Justice Department to investigate our governor for public corruption. It seems that Mr. Sablan and his elitist few stir things up in order to gain politically. Several years ago, it was the ARRA fiasco, now the corruption fiasco. It is not fair for Mr. Sablan's opponent and dirty politics is being implemented to the fullest via the disguise of doing the right thing.

"You can fool some of the people all the time and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all of the time."—Abraham Lincoln

Cameron Taitano
Odessa, Texas

Precinct 2 is broken

Dear voters of Precinct 2 (Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, Finasisu, As Lito, and As Perdido): For more than nine months, my wife Joann and I have been going out visiting you during our house visits. You all recognize and acknowledge that our precinct is broken and nothing has changed in the past 14 years since party politicians dominated our community.

They promised your children to fix the basketball courts but they are still broken. They promised you after-school activities for your children but there's none. They promised "Better Times" and "Let It BE" but many of you are unemployed and living without any power or water.

CUC, the Retirement Fund, CHC, Medicaid, our economy and the high crime rate are also examples of the many things that are broken. If the same party politicians ignored your concerns and couldn't fix anything in 14 years, why would you want to give them another two more years? It's time for change!

There are six candidates running for House of Representatives for Precinct 2 but I am the only candidate who graduated with a four-year degree in Business Management. I achieved the rank of captain in the Army and graduated from the U.S. Army Engineering School in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. I possess the business, educational experience, military leadership and discipline to move our community in the right direction. In addition, I pledge honesty, transparency, hard work, and zero tolerance for corruption.

I am respectfully asking for your vote and your commitment to rebuild our community and our island together. I will work hard at finding solutions to the economic problems as well as the other pressing issues affecting us.

Daniel I. Aquino Jr.
Susupe, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

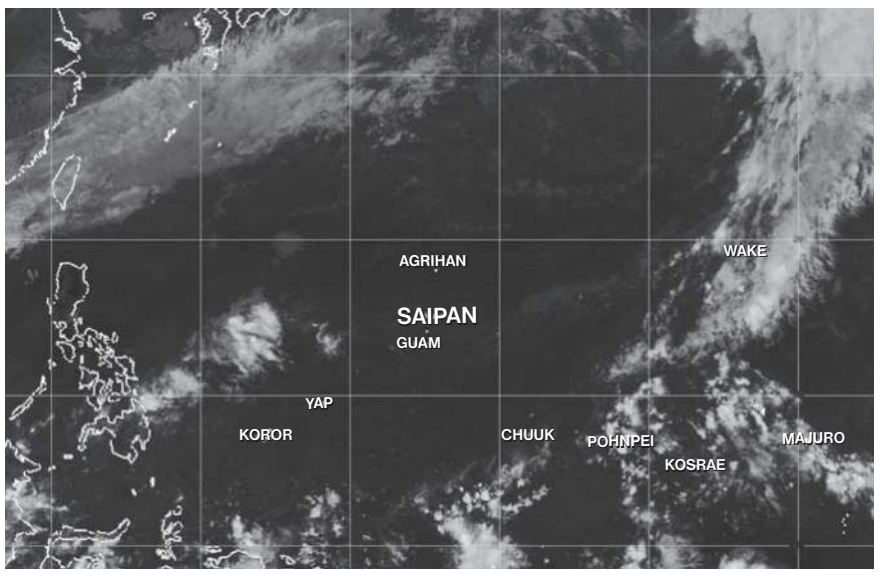
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲88	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼55
Beijing	Sunny	▲60	▼36
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼70
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼54
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼76
Melbourne	Rain	▲60	▼47
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼60
New York	Showers	▲53	▼43
Osaka	Windy	▲63	▼51
Paris	Showers	▲52	▼40
Pusan	Windy	▲60	▼42
Rome	Showers	▲65	▼59
Salem	Rain	▲56	▼52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲64	▼59
Seoul	Sunny	▲51	▼34
Tokyo	Sunny	▲69	▼51
Washington, DC	Showers	▲56	▼43

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends from 25N165E southwestward to 17N157E then continues westward as a shear line to east of Saipan at 15N151E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are occurring along and southeast of the front in the area bounded by 11N157E to 25N165E to 25N174E to 15N167E back to 11N157E including Wake Island farther west. Patchy cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 100 miles north of the shear line. A weak surface trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well north of Palau between 12N and 16N from 130E to 135E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 2N from 147E to 150E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Pohnpei east to the Marshall Islands in the area bounded by EQ160E to 8N157E to 13N165E to 5N177E back to EQ160E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
9:08 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:13 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:14 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:14 AM	5:47 PM
Monday	6:15 AM	5:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:32 PM	7:55 AM
Friday	8:20 PM	8:44 AM
Saturday	9:09 PM	9:32 AM
Sunday	9:59 PM	10:19 AM
Monday	10:49 PM	11:04 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCT. 27, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)			
UZ608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)			
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:10pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	11:25pm	7:55am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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More information and applications can be found at www.sablan.house.gov, or by calling 670-323-2647 in Saipan, 532-2647 in Rota, or 433-2647 in Tinian. Applications are due December 14, 2012.
Paid for with official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives

Workforce Readiness program caps warehousing training

The eighth group of participants in the Society for Human Resource Management's Workforce Readiness Initiative completed a week of job preparation and warehousing skills in their efforts to find employment in today's tough job market. This group of job seekers, referred by the CNMI Department of Labor and the Workforce Investment Act Office, completed 40 hours of training during the week of Oct. 15-19, with warehousing and OSHA classroom training and on-site observation of warehousing operations, plus forklift training and testing to obtain their forklift operator certification.

The program is now soliciting openings to help their graduates—all U.S. qualified workers—find jobs. Businesses needing warehousemen, stockers, or employees for similar positions are encouraged to contact 233-7476. The program also has food service, waiter/waitress, and administrative staff available for work from earlier classes.

"The SHRM program is a positive effort to help U.S. qualified workers join the local workforce. Our efforts, so far, have been successful in providing good introductory and basic training," said Frank Gibson, Initiative program manager for SHRM. "Our participants are ready to join a company and continuing their learning through daily warehousing work. They have all shown their sincere intention, attending each day of training, showing up on time, showing interest and participating well. They received good solid training from knowledgeable and experienced instructors from the business community. We have already arranged interviews to place several of the trainees but still need additional openings to provide opportunities for our graduates."

The eighth Initiative program participants were Elton Aguon, Kenneth Aguon, James Camacho, Ron Maverick Carreira, Lorenzo B. Lifoifoi, Anthony Ogumoro, John Omar, Alfonso Sablan Palacios, John Edward Peter, Jonathan Rabauliman, Luis P. Sablan, and Itimal L. Taisakan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The eighth group of the SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative have their picture taken in front of the CTSI office in Lower Base.

The warehousing program included job preparation classes on job applications and resumes, job interviews, equal employment opportunity and sexual harassment, job search responsibilities, and employer expectations. Skills training classes were provided on customer service, OSHA requirements, basic warehousing operations, basic warehousing maintenance, and forklift operation, culminating in hands-on forklift operation and certification.

Gibson said that the success of the program is also due to the professional skills and interest of the instructors. "I would like to thank the SHRM members, Mr. Jim Arenovski from Delta Management, Ms. Malou Ernest from Tan Holdings, and Mr. Juan I. Tenorio from the Hafadai Beach Hotel, who worked with the participants to prepare them for employment. Special thanks are owed to Mr. Joven Cruz from CTSI Logistics for the warehousing and OSHA training and the use of the CTSI warehouse area as a training venue. I would also like to thank Mr. Vicente Aldan, from Ace Hardware CNMI, Inc., for the forklift training and certification, and Mr. Max Kretzers, D&Q Company/Tan Holdings, and other staff of CTSI and D&Q who volunteered their time to assist in the warehouse tour. I appreciate the business community's willing assistance."

The Workforce Readiness Initiative is funded by a grant awarded to the CNMI SHRM by the U.S. Department of the the Interior through the CNMI Department of Commerce in support of the CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program. This initiative to benefit the community started on April 16 with a one-week warehouseman training program and just recently completed this seventh program for warehousing trainees, and will hold an additional four training programs this year.

The Workforce Readiness Initiative is for the benefit of unemployed U.S. qualified workers. Qualified individuals who are registered with WIA or the DOL Employment Services should contact those offices and let them know of their interest. Those who are not registered and are interested in joining one of the Initiative programs should immediately register with WIA and express their interest. All interested candidates should sign up with WIA to allow them to help employers with funding of Initiative graduates. Interested individuals can also contact Gibson by e-mail at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

Although the Initiative does not guarantee a job for every participant, it will make every effort to get each graduate employed. Several companies have already committed to accepting Initiative graduates and the Initiative will continue to source jobs through its SHRM-member companies and other employers. Companies interested in considering Initiative graduates may also contact Gibson at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

This program is supported by federal funds in the amount of $102,000 under the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program through a subgrant award to the CNMI Chapter of the Society of Human Resources from the CNMI Department of Commerce. The CNMI SHRM Initiative is managed by HR Support, CNMI, a CNMI-licensed Human Resource Management consulting and training company. ***(SHRM)***

Victims of violence have a new advocate in NUTESE

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The anti-violence movement in the Northern Marianas has gained a new advocate in Nurturing Transformative & Sustainable Communities or NUTESE, a community-based and non-profit group celebrating its first anniversary on Nov. 3.

Headquartered on Saipan, NUTESE aims to advance the anti-violence campaign in communities of color across local, regional, and national boundaries through advocacy, community organizing, leadership development, education and research, networking, dialog, and engagement.

"The idea is to mobilize communities and build on their capacities so we can end violence together, as reflected in our mission," said executive director Keiko Odashiro.

Odashiro, a former Karidat staffer, and Guam-based reporter Maria Louella Losinio founded the group after meeting at a training hosted by the National Organization for Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault.

She revealed in an interview that her passion to help others was inspired after encountering community workers while backpacking in Southeast Asia. Odashiro obtained a double major in Liberal Studies and Sociology and Anthropology from Eastern Oregon University, then took up her masters in Community Development at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Her educational background and work experience, coupled with her determination, have been instrumental in setting up NUTESE. Since its inception, the group has become a part of the sexual assault and domestic violence response team in the Commonwealth, collaborating with local authorities and other advocates that aid victims in time of their need.

"The issue of violence is hard to grasp because victims and survivors are not coming out. Sexual and domestic violence are widely perpetrated and tolerated in the community, and they occur among various ethnic groups," she said.

More often than not, victims of violence are ashamed or embarrassed to come out for fear of losing credibility or experiencing public humiliation, Odashiro said. Some of the survivors do not even realize that the trauma is still there and that it won't heal unless they talk about it.

NUTESE, Odashiro said, provides a 24/7 helpline (287-9213) and other services for victims of violence such as counseling from the group's trained crisis advocates or counselors, translation and interpretation, accompanying victims or survivors during court hearings, physical examinations or police interviews.

According to Odashiro, what makes NUTESE unique is that it has a volunteer-based and survivor-driven program, which helps community members become more informed and empowered to respond to the crisis of violence.

In a community as diverse as the CNMI, Odashiro said they work on training volunteers who would become advocates rooted in each and every cultural group and replicate the work at the grassroots level.

What began last year as a group of five volunteers has expanded to about a dozen volunteers representing the Chamorro, Carolinian, Japanese, Filipino, Chinese, and Korean populations on island, and Odashiro noted that they are still working on extending the invitation for volunteers to other members of the public.

"Our volunteers bring passion to the table, bringing empowerment to others and making the program sustainable," she said, adding that the next batch of volunteers will receive their training beginning Nov. 2.

And since NUTESE is survivor-driven, the group is able to lessen the beneficiaries' dependency on the program, bringing them to group events and other community activities, involving them in the planning and preparation process to "equalize power" and cultivate their drive to become independent.

Besides their local network, the group also has established a valuable partnership with two major universities in Japan. Odashiro revealed that in February 2013, two interns from Kyoto Women's University and another from Chuo University are expected to arrive on Saipan for their research work on migrant workers' rights and welfare.

NUTESE is also open for local college interns and the group will be targeting the youth, the elderly, and people with disabilities in conducting presentations next year. For this year, the group is focusing on religious organizations since many victims and survivors seek help from their churches.

NUTESE is funded through the Criminal Justice Planning Agency's Sexual Assault Services Program Fund, and the Violence Against Women Act subsidy. Odashiro they also conduct fundraising activities such as small-scale garage sale, and their first bike race on Aug. 12, which gathered about 50 bikers on island. The group, which also accepts donations, is now in the process of setting up its Guam office.

"It's our obligation and responsibility to take care of the survivors of violence. It's everybody's responsibility and NUTESE is here to facilitate and help community members become advocates," said the executive director.

For more information, visit NUTESE at Rooms 305 and 306 at the Marianas Building Plaza in Susupe or call 287-9212 or their helpline at 287-9213.

Candle lighting planned for bereaved families

The death of a child of any age, from any cause, is a shattering experience for a family; the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated.

The Compassionate Friends is a national mutual assistance, self-help organization that offers friendship, understanding and support to family members who have experienced the death of a son, daughter, brother, sister, or grandchild, and helps others better assist grieving families.

A small group on Saipan is looking into organizing a chapter of TCF. As a first step it is planning to hold a memorial service in conjunction with The Compassionate Friends' 16th annual Worldwide Candle Lighting on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012, at 6:30pm. Candles will be lit at 7pm local time, as we commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon. A virtual 24-hour wave of light moves from time zone to time zone around the world.

Additional details will be announced as the date approaches. Please contact Jill Derickson at jilld@pticom.com if you are interested in helping, or for further information.

For more information on the Compassionate Friends, visit http://www.compassionatefriends.org/home.aspx. ***(PR)***

Annual tourism summit draws nearly 250 students

Almost 250 elementary, junior high, and high school students convened Tuesday, Oct. 30, at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan for this year's MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit, which emphasizes the dictum that "tourism is everybody's business."

The summit, organized by the Marianas Tourism Education Council and school Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically, or MY WAVE, clubs, presented a number of guest speakers—including students—who challenged the participants to become actively engaged in the primary industry of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"I can't tell you how impressed I am that you young people are getting the opportunity to get together and listen to people in the tourism industry," said Office of Insular Affairs Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta. "Everyone who is part of the tourism industry on Saipan should be proud of you."

Babauta also emphasized the unique cultural characteristics of the Northern Marianas that set it apart from other beach resort destinations and encouraged the students to explore careers in the visitor industry.

"We are all capable of doing whatever it is we want to do. I have a little girl, and I always told her that she can be anything she wants and she can do whatever she wants to do, but she has to put the work into it," he told students.

Dr. Miriam J.S. Leis, a strategic foresight analyst specializing in the interrelation of emerging technologies, innovation, society, politics, and future studies and has worked on projects for the European Commission, challenged students to think strategically about the industry and get personally involved with visitors.

"Keeping our island clean and safe, protecting our environment, and respecting other cultures and our own cultures…" Leis said. "When you go home, you can think about your ideas, and maybe share them with your teachers."

Hopwood Jr. High School MY WAVE Club president Joana Garcia and vice president Crystal Lloren also shared their club's activities this school year.

"MY WAVE is truly important to the CNMI because it helps tourism, and tourism is the main source of cash in the islands," said Lloren. "Our advisors care about our club, and it is one of the most active clubs in the school."

Saipan Southern High MY WAVE Club president Bertran Palacios and treasurer Issac Tenorio, who have been MY WAVE Club members for four years, shared their experiences with other students and some suggestions to improve the visitors industry.

"Don't give tourists problems. Always treat them with respect," said Tenorio.

The CNMI's representative to Congress, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), addressed the group in the morning. MTEC board member and Northern Marianas College Business and Tourism instructor Larry Lee quizzed students on the Northern Marianas visitor industry. Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Resources & Tourism, delivered welcoming remarks. Other MY WAVE Club presidents also gave abbreviated reports of their plans and activities.

"We extend our thanks to OIA, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Public School System for their support," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "Kids getting involved in tourism is where we start, and we hope to keep their interest about the tourism and hospitality industry going throughout their lives."

Participating schools were San Antonio, Koblerville, W.S. Reyes, and Garapan elementary schools; Saipan Southern and Kagman high schools; and Chacha Oceanview and Hopwood junior high schools.

Entertainment was provided by Saipan Music and Dance Studio. This year's MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit was funded by a grant from the OIA. Giveaways were also donated by DFS Saipan. ***(MTEC)***

MTEC

Rep. Edmund Villagomez, chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, delivered welcoming remarks at the MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Oct. 30, 2012, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

MTEC

Dr. Miriam J.S. Leis of Tokyo, Japan, a strategic foresight analyst who has worked with the European Commission, addresses students at the MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Oct. 30, 2012, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

MTEC

Office of Insular Affairs Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta challenges students to aim high in the tourism industry at the MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Oct. 30, 2012, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

MTEC

The CNMI's representative to Congress, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, interacts with students at the MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Oct. 30, 2012, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

MTEC

Participants in the MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Oct. 30, 2012, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan sing the national anthem.

MTEC

MY WAVE Club officials and MTEC board members, and VIPs pose for a commemorative photo at the MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Oct. 30, 2012, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

MTEC

MTEC chair Vicky Benavente delivers closing remarks and a final challenge to students at the MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Oct. 30, 2012, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

MTEC

Garapan Elementary School students perform a poem in Chamorro and dance at the MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Oct. 30, 2012, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Business

Storm's cost may hit $50B; rebuilding to ease blow

WASHINGTON(AP)—Superstorm Sandy will end up causing about $20 billion in property damages and $10 billion to $30 billion more in lost business, according to IHS Global Insight, a forecasting firm.

In the long run, the devastation the storm inflicted on New York City and other parts of the Northeast will barely nick the U.S. economy. That's the view of economists who say a slightly slower economy in coming weeks will likely be matched by reconstruction and repairs that will contribute to growth over time.

The short-term blow to the economy, though, could subtract about 0.6 percentage point from U.S. economic growth in the October-December quarter, IHS says. Retailers, airlines and home construction firms will likely lose some business.

■■■

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Stock Exchange will open on Wednesday—because it had to open.

In a bit of welcome news for fund managers, investors and even the economy, the company that operates the iconic exchange at 11 Wall Street announced it would not extend its trading shutdown to a third day.

Wall Street experts had feared that another delay because of Hurricane Sandy would have meant a dangerous back-up of customer orders to buy and sell stock. It also could have dealt a blow to the image of U.S. markets, already damaged by investor distrust, sudden market swings and a series of trading glitches, including the botched IPO of Facebook.

"The world is used to seeing the financial markets through the lens of the floor of New York Stock Exchange," said Larry Leibowtiz, chief operating officer of NYSE Euronext, which operates the exchange. "It gives them a sense of comfort."

■■■

The storm cut power to more than 8 million homes, shut down 70 percent of East Coast oil refineries and inflicted worse-than-expected damage in the New York metro area. That area produces about 10 percent of U.S. economic output.

New York City was all but closed off by car, train and air. The superstorm overflowed the city's waterfront, flooded the financial district and subway tunnels and cut power to hundreds of thousands. Power is expected to be fully restored in Manhattan and Brooklyn within four days.

AP

A beachfront house is completely destroyed in the aftermath of a superstorm Sandy, Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2012, in Coney Island's Sea Gate community in New York.

After Sandy, canceled flights but no airport chaos

NEWYORK(AP)—Hurricane Sandy has left more than 16,000 flight cancellations in its wake.

Chaos at airports? Hardly.

Not long ago, a powerful storm pounding the Northeast would have brought havoc to some of the nation's busiest airports: families sleeping on the floor amidst mounds of luggage; passengers stuck for hours on planes hoping to take off; and dinners cobbled together from near-empty vending machines.

In the aftermath of Sandy, airports from Washington to Boston are deserted. There are hundreds of thousands of travelers stranded across the U.S. and around the world, but instead of camping out inside airport terminals they are staying with friends and family or in hotels.

After years of storm mismanagement and the bad public relations that followed, U.S. airlines have rewritten their severe weather playbooks. They've learned that it's best to cancel flights early and keep the public away from airports, even if that means they'll have a bigger backlog to deal with once conditions improve.

This allows the airlines to tell gate agents, baggage handlers and flight crews to stay home, too—keeping them fresh once they're needed again.

And by moving planes to airports outside of the storm's path, airlines can protect their equipment and thereby get flight schedules back to normal quickly after a storm passes and airports reopen.

These precautions make good business sense. They also help the airlines comply with new government regulations that impose steep fines for leaving passengers stuck on planes for three hours or more.

"The last few major storms created such gridlock, and such bad will with their best customers, they just had to shift their behavior," said Kate Hanni, who heads up the passenger advocacy group Flyers Rights and lobbied for the three-hour rule. "The flying public would rather have their flights pre-cancelled than be sleeping in Chicago on a cot."

Departure monitors at airports across the Northeast Monday and Tuesday reflected that new approach.

London: Canceled.
Seattle: Canceled.
Los Angeles: Canceled.
Hong Kong: Canceled.
Houston: Canceled.

And the number of cancellations is likely to rise.

"It will probably take until the weekend for things to return to normal," said Rob Maruster, the chief operating officer of JetBlue Airways, which is based in New York.

Even "normal" won't be perfect. Passengers are reporting multi-hour wait times at most airline call centers and they are likely to experience long lines once airports reopen.

Nation

A day after Sandy, New Yorkers find a changed city

NEW YORK (AP)—Stripped of its bustle and mostly cut off from the world, New York was left wondering Tuesday when its particular way of life—carried by subway, lit by skyline and powered by 24-hour deli—would return.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the power company said it could be the weekend before the lights come on for hundreds of thousands of people plunged into darkness by what was once Hurricane Sandy.

Bloomberg said it could also be four or five days before the subway, which suffered the worst damage in its 108-year history, is running again. All 10 of the tunnels that carry New Yorkers under the East River were flooded.

Sandy killed 18 people in New York City, the mayor said. The dead included two who drowned in a home and one who was in bed when a tree fell on an apartment. A 23-year-old woman died after stepping into a puddle near a live electrical wire.

"This was a devastating storm, maybe the worst that we have ever experienced," Bloomberg said.

For the 8 million people who live here, the city was a different place one day after the storm.

In normal times, rituals bring a sense of order to the chaos of life in the nation's largest city: Stop at Starbucks on the morning walk with the dog, drop the kids off at P.S. 39, grab a bagel.

On Tuesday, those rituals were suspended, with little indication when they would come back. Schools were shut for a second day and were closed Wednesday, too.

Coffee shops, normally open as close as a block apart, were closed in some neighborhoods. New York found itself less caffeinated and curiously isolated from the world, although by afternoon it had begun to struggle back to life.

Some bridges into the city reopened at midday, but the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel, connecting Brooklyn to Manhattan, and the Holland Tunnel, between New York and New Jersey, remained closed. And service on the three commuter railroads that run between the city and its suburbs was still suspended.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said bus service would be restored at 5 p.m. EDT, on a limited schedule but free. He said he hoped there would be full service on Wednesday, also free.

The New York Stock Exchange was closed for a second day, the first time that has happened because of weather since the 19th century, but said it would reopen on Wednesday.

Swaths of the city were not so lucky. Consolidated Edison, the power company, said it would be four days before the last of the 337,000 customers in Manhattan and Brooklyn who lost power have electricity again.

For the Bronx, Queens, Staten Island and Westchester County, with 442,000 outages, it could take a week, Con Ed said. Floodwater led to explosions that disabled a power substation on Monday night, contributing to the outages.

New Yorkers were left without power to charge their iPods and Kindles and Nooks for the subway. Not that there was a subway. People clustered around electrical outlets at a Duane Reade drugstore to power up their phones.

At a small market called Hudson Gourmet, in Manhattan's Greenwich Village, cashiers made change by candlelight and shoppers used flashlights to scour the shelves.

Lee Leshen used the light from his phone to make his selections—three boxes of linguine and a can of tomatoes. His power was out, but the gas in his stove worked, so he could cook. He said he almost never cooks but is learning.

Romney, GOP suddenly plunging onto Democratic turf

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Mitt Romney is suddenly plunging into traditionally Democratic-leaning Minnesota and Pennsylvania, and his GOP allies are trying to put Michigan into play. It's forcing President Barack Obama to defend his own turf—he's pouring money into television ads in the states and dispatching top backers—in the campaign's final week.

The question is: Why this Republican move?

GOP efforts in the trio of Rust Belt states could indicate that Romney is desperately searching for a last-minute path to the needed 270 Electoral College votes—without all-important Ohio. Or just the opposite, that he's so confident in the most competitive battlegrounds that he's pressing for insurance against Obama in what's expected to be a close race.

Or perhaps the Republican simply has money to burn. Use it now or never.

Former President Bill Clinton was dispatched in response on Tuesday. "Barack Obama's policies work better," he declared on the University of Minnesota campus, one of his two stops in a state that offers 10 electoral votes and hasn't voted for a Republican presidential candidate since Richard Nixon in 1972.

This late-game expansion of a campaign playing field that, until now, had focused on just nine states was taking place exactly a week from Election Day. At the same time, Obama spent a second day in Washington to focus on his presidential duties and Romney edged back into active campaigning in the aftermath of superstorm Sandy.

"This is a tough time for millions of people ... but America is tougher," the president said during a brief visit to the American Red Cross, where he sought to reassure victims, encourage aid workers—and warn of more storm damage to come with rising floodwater.

In Ohio, Romney, too, spoke of concern for storm victims, telling supporters who were collecting supplies that "a lot of people hurting this morning."

Beyond the candidates' pause from feverish campaigning, the impact of the storm on the election wasn't all that clear.

National polls show an even race for the popular vote, though Obama appears to have both an edge in key battleground states in the electoral vote hunt and more state-by-state pathways to reach the 270-vote threshold.

Of the nine states where the two men have spent more than $1 billion in advertising since June, Romney is in the strongest position in North Carolina. But public and internal campaign polls show he's locked in stubbornly tight battles in Colorado, Florida, New Hampshire, Nevada and Virginia and is fighting to overtake Obama's advantage in crucial Ohio as well as Iowa and Wisconsin.

That said, Romney still could win. Anything can happen in the race's closing days—including Democratic-leaning states like Minnesota, Pennsylvania or Michigan going Republican.

Clinton's Minnesota visit came just days after Romney and his allies started airing TV ads in the state. GOP-leaning groups including Americans for Job Security and American Future Fund were spending $615,000 this week. Romney spent a much lighter $29,000 last week, and it was unclear how much his campaign was spending this week. All together, the efforts led Obama to follow suit to prevent the state from slipping out of his grasp. His campaign was spending $210,000 on ads in Minnesota this week.

Asia

Japan spent rebuilding money on unrelated projects

SENDAI, Japan (AP)—About a quarter of the $148 billion budget for reconstruction after Japan's March 2011 tsunami and nuclear disaster has been spent on unrelated projects, including subsidies for a contact lens factory and research whaling.

The findings of a government audit buttress complaints over shortcomings and delays in the reconstruction effort. More than half the budget is yet to be disbursed, stalled by indecision and bureaucracy, while nearly all of the 340,000 people evacuated from the disaster zone remain uncertain whether, when and how they will ever resettle.

Many of the non-reconstruction-related projects loaded into the 11.7 trillion yen ($148 billion) budget were included on the pretext they might contribute to Japan's economic revival, a strategy that the government now acknowledges was a mistake.

"It is true that the government has not done enough and has not done it adequately. We must listen to those who say the reconstruction should be the first priority," Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said in a speech to parliament on Monday.

He vowed that unrelated projects will be "strictly wrung out" of the budget.

But ensuring that funds go to their intended purpose might require an explicit change in the reconstruction spending law, which authorizes spending on such ambiguous purposes as creating eco-towns and supporting "employment measures."

Among the unrelated projects benefiting from the reconstruction budgets are: road building in distant Okinawa; prison vocational training in other parts of Japan; subsidies for a contact lens factory in central Japan; renovations of government offices in Tokyo; aircraft and fighter pilot training, research and production of rare earths minerals, a semiconductor research project and even funding to support whaling, ostensibly for research, according to data from the government audit released last week.

A list of budget items and spending shows some 30 million yen ($380,000) went to promoting the Tokyo Sky Tree, a transmission tower that is the world's tallest freestanding broadcast structure. Another 2.8 billion yen ($35 million) was requested by the Justice Ministry for a publicity campaign to "reassure the public" about the risks of big disasters.

Masahiro Matsumura, a politics professor at St. Andrews University in Osaka, Japan, said justifying such misuse by suggesting the benefits would "trickle down" to the disaster zone is typical of the political dysfunction that has hindered Japan's efforts to break out of two decades of debilitating economic slump.

"This is a manifestation of government indifference to rehabilitation. They are very good at making excuses," Matsumura told The Associated Press.

Near the crippled Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant, where the tsunami set off the worst nuclear accident since the 1986 Chernobyl accident, recovery work has barely begun.

More than 325,000 of the 340,000 people who had to flee tsunami-hit areas or the evacuation zone around the nuclear plant remain homeless or away from their homes, according to the most recent figures available.

China confronts Japan ships near disputed islands

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese patrol boats confronted Japanese vessels near a disputed East China Sea archipelago early Tuesday, the latest in a series of such encounters following Tokyo's nationalization of the islands last month.

Four ships from China Marine Surveillance entered waters near the islands at 10 a.m. (0200 GMT), according to a statement from the State Oceanic Administration that commands the service. The ships conducted surveillance on the on Japanese Coast Guard vessels in the area, "sternly expressed" China's sovereignty claim over the islands and "carried out expulsion measures," the administration said.

Japanese Coast Guard spokesman Yuji Kito said ships from both countries flashed signs saying they were in their own territorial waters and demanding the other side leave.

"The Chinese flashed the signs in Chinese and Japanese," said Kito, speaking by phone from Coast Guard headquarters in Okinawa, which has jurisdiction over the islands. "They have done this before and so have we." He said the situation was not more intense than previous encounters.

The uninhabited islets, known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China, are also claimed by Taiwan.

China has launched increasingly frequent patrols around the islands since angrily protesting the Japanese government's decision to purchase them from their private owners. Chinese ships have at times entered the 22-kilometer (12-nautical mile) zone that Tokyo considers its territorial waters near the islands and Chinese aircraft have also stepped up activity around them.

Tokyo's nationalization sparked violent protests in dozens of Chinese cities and sent relations nose diving, with trade ties among the worst to suffer.

China has demanded Tokyo acknowledge the sovereignty dispute, and the sides have held low-key talks aimed at reducing tensions.

Japan needs to "face up to the current reality, recognize the controversy, correct their mistakes and negotiate," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a regularly scheduled news conference Tuesday.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipino general says no hostages harmed in clash

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine marines made sure there were no foreign or Filipino hostages being held by a large group of Abu Sayyaf militants before engaging the al-Qaida-linked gunmen in a deadly battle two days ago, a military official said Tuesday. Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Rustico Guerrero said four marines and at least nine Abu Sayyaf militants and allied gunmen were killed in the six-hour gunbattle Sunday in a jungle near southern Sulu province's mountainous Patikul town. Twenty-two other marines were wounded. Regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang said the marines were deployed in Patikul's hinterlands to check reported sightings of long-held hostages of the Abu Sayyaf.

Chinese think tank urges end to one-child policy

BEIJING (AP)—A government think tank says China should start phasing out its one-child policy immediately and allow two children for every family by 2015. It remains unclear whether Chinese leaders are ready to take that step. Some demographers say the timeline put forward by the China Development Research Foundation for phasing out the unpopular one-child limit is bold. Others warn its gradual approach is insufficient to help correct the problems that China's strict birth limits have created. The report will be made public next month but Chinese state media have been given advance copies. The official Xinhua News Agency said the foundation recommends a two-child policy in some provinces from this year and a nationwide two-child policy by 2015.

World

Syria activists report 23 dead in Damascus suburb

BEIRUT (AP)—Airstrikes by Syrian jets and shells from tanks leveled a neighborhood in a restive city near the capital of Damascus on Tuesday, killing 18 people, and at least five rebel fighters died nearby in clashes with regime troops, activists said.

The airstrikes on the city of Douma, northeast of the capital, left residents scampering over a huge expanse of rubble and using their hands to dig up mangled bodies, according to activist videos posted online.

Scenes of vast destruction like those from Douma on Tuesday have grown more common as rebels seeking to topple President Bashar Assad have made gains on the ground, and Assad's forces have responded with overwhelming air power.

In the past weeks, anti-regime activists say about 150 people have been killed a day in fighting. Since the uprising against Assad began in March 2011, they say 35,000 have died.

Tuesday's airstrikes came a day after what activists called the heaviest and most widespread bombing campaign nationwide, on what was to be the final day of an internationally sanctioned truce that never took hold.

The death toll for what was supposed to be a four-day cease-fire ending Monday exceeded 500.

Activists speculated that the government's heavy reliance on air power reflected its inability to roll back rebel gains, especially in the north of the country near the border with Turkey, where rebels have control of swathes of territory.

AP

In this Monday, Oct. 29, 2012 photo, a rebel sniper aims at Syrian army positions in the Aleppo Jedida district, Syria.

US, EU hopeful of new Iran nuke talks

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP)—The U.S. and the European Union said Tuesday they'll press on with sanctions against Iran, even as they hope the promise of new negotiations could lead to a diplomatic solution ending the nuclear standoff.

Appearing together at a news conference in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo before continuing a joint tour of the Balkans in Serbia and Kosovo, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said both diplomacy and pressure would continue until Iran makes significant concessions over its disputed uranium enrichment activity.

"We continue to try and find ways to move forward on our negotiations," Ashton told reporters in Sarajevo. She cited contact over the weekend between a top aide and an assistant to Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, and said she would be reaching out to Jalili "in the near future."

Still, there appeared to be no significant advance in the process since world powers instructed Ashton last month in New York to speak with Jalili and gauge Iran's seriousness on coming into compliance with its international nuclear negotiations. The West fears Iran may be trying to develop nuclear weapons, a charge Tehran denies.

The West has demanded that Iran must stop enriching uranium to 20 percent purity, shut down its underground Fordo enrichment site and ship its 20 percent stockpile out of the country. In return, Iran has been offered civilian plane spare parts and 20 percent-enriched nuclear fuel for its medical research reactor in Tehran.

Sexual harassment spikes over Egyptian holiday

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's president acknowledged the widespread problem of sexual harassment in his country Tuesday, ordering his interior minister to investigate a rash of assaults during a just-completed Muslim holiday.

Mohammed Morsi acted after his government reported 735 police complaints about sexual harassment over the four-day Eid al-Adha holiday, which ended Monday.

Morsi stressed the need to fight "all phenomena of moral chaos and abuses, especially harassment in Egyptian streets," spokesman Yasser Ali said in a statement.

The holiday features celebrations, crowded public squares—and widespread harassment of women by men.

Rights activists have faulted Morsi's Islamist government for failing to take action against the wave of sexual assaults. Earlier this month, around 200 activists gathered outside the presidential palace, chanting slogans against Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood pressing for a law to criminalize harassment. Morsi's order Tuesday appeared to be an attempt to counter the charges of activists.

Complaints about the problem, which has long been a feature of Egypt's society, gained prominence during last year's popular uprising that unseated longtime President Hosni Mubarak. Women activists and reporters told of severe assaults by men in Tahrir Square, the focus of the mass protests.

Activists say little, if anything, has changed.

Focus

Foreign fighters worry—and boost—Syrian rebels

AP

In this Saturday, March 17, 2012 file photo, Syrian security officers gather in front the damaged building of the aviation intelligence department, which was attacked by one of two explosions in Damascus, Syria.

ALEPPO, Syria (AP)—The presence of foreign Islamic militants battling Syria's regime is raising concerns over the possible injection of al-Qaida's influence into the country's civil war.

Syria's rebels share some of those misgivings. But they also see in the foreign extremists a welcome boost: experienced, disciplined fighters whose battlefield valor against the better-armed troops of President Bashar Assad is legendary.

Nothing typifies the dilemma more than Jabhat al-Nusra, a shadowy group with an al-Qaida-style ideology whose fighters come from Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the Balkans and elsewhere. Many are veterans of previous wars who came to Syria for what they consider a new "jihad" against Assad.

The group has become notorious for numerous suicide bombings during the 19-month-old conflict targeting regime and military facilities. Syria's rebels have tried to disassociate themselves from the bombings for fear their uprising will be tainted with the al-Qaida brand.

But several hundred fighters from Jabhat al-Nusra—Arabic for "the Support Front"—have also been a valued addition to rebel ranks in the grueling, three-month battle for control of Aleppo, Syria's largest city. Their reputation in battle circulates among Aleppo's rebels like an urban legend. Soon after opposition forces launched their assault on the city in July, government troops almost drove them out of the key district of Salaheddin—until 40 Jabhat al-Nusra fighters rushed to the front and fended them off, according to a story told by many rebels.

The group's fighters have played a similar role along the multitude of front lines that divide this city of 3 million people, where regime forces and rebels have been at a standstill, fighting street to street but unable to score a decisive victory. Many rebels talk of the al-Nusra fighters' prowess as snipers.

"They rush to the rescue of rebel lines that come under pressure and hold them," one rebel said. "They know what they are doing and are very disciplined. They are like the special forces of Aleppo."

But he added: "The only thing is that they are too radical." He spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals by both Jabhat al-Nusra and the Assad regime.

In a statement posted on militant websites Wednesday, Jabhat al-Nusra rejected a proposed cease-fire during the four-day Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday, which starts Friday. International envoy Lakhdar Brahimi has been trying to cobble together such a truce, saying the government in Damascus and some rebels have agreed to the idea.

But Jabhat al-Nusra called a truce a "filthy game," saying it has no faith that Assad's regime would respect one. Some Syrian rebel leaders have also expressed skepticism, since previous cease-fire attempts have gone nowhere.

Jabhat al-Nusra is the largest grouping of foreign jihadis in Syria, and the rebels say they number about 300 fighters in Aleppo, as well as branches in neighboring Idlib province, the city of Homs and the capital Damascus. Any direct links to al-Qaida are unclear, although U.S. and Iraqi officials have said they believe members of al-Qaida's branch in Iraq have crossed the border to join the fight against Assad.

There are no reliable figures for the number of foreign fighters in Syria, although available estimates put the number in the hundreds, rather than the thousands.

Many al-Nusra fighters wear long tunics and baggy pants in the style of mujahedeen or "holy warriors" in Afghanistan, and nearly all have beards, a hallmark of religious piety. A few smear kohl on their eyes and have long hair, emulating what they believe is a style favored by Islam's Prophet Muhammad in the seventh century.

The fighters keep a low profile. They have turned a government building in Aleppo into their headquarters, but it is barely noticeable since it contains no banners or flags to give it away. Only occasional graffiti announces their presence in the city: "Jabhat al-Nusra is coming." Rebels who spoke with The Associated Press about the group had no clear idea about its leadership.

The fighters shun the media, but information gleaned from Syrians in contact with them paints a picture of militant Muslims motivated by a jihadi ideology not unlike that of al-Qaida. Their members include propagandists, trainers, surgeons and other medical doctors.

Many Syrian rebels are themselves pious Muslims who frame the fight against Assad's regime in a religious context. But some see the jihadis' brand of Islam as too starkly black-and-white and intolerant, dividing the world between the faithful and the infidels. Their presence, some fear, casts doubts on whether a post-Assad Syria will embrace democratic values or come under the sway of Islamists.

A staffer at a field hospital in a rebel-held part of Aleppo, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals for talking about the group, said the al-Nusra fighters "are fine now, because they are fighting alongside the rebels."

An AP team witnessed some of the frictions at the field hospital in mid-October. Several al-Nusra fighters entered, and one of them—a tall, lanky non-Arab dressed in black with a black headband—was enraged by the presence of foreign journalists at the facility.

"They are all spies who are here to collect information," he said in English, shaking the automatic rifle that was slung over his shoulder.

Another fighter, who appeared to be of North African origin, tried to force a female photographer to leave the hospital after she attempted to photograph the X-ray of a wounded fighter's head.

A Syrian rebel commander confronted the two men.

"There is nothing in Islam that permits you to treat guests like this. Furthermore, it is a woman," he said. The fighters left and the commander offered tea and dates to the photographer and several other journalists.

Opposition members also worry that the presence of foreign jihadis in Syria lends credibility to the regime's repeated assertions that the rebellion is the work of terrorist groups carrying out a "foreign conspiracy."

Jabhat al-Nusra has claimed responsibility for a string of suicide bombings, including several in Damascus. It unleashed an Oct. 3 suicide blast in Aleppo that killed more than 30 people, targeting a square where pro-regime fighters congregated. After each blast, the rebels' Free Syrian Army umbrella group underlines that it does not approve of suicide bombings as a tactic.

"Their presence is reducing the popular support that we desperately need in areas where we operate," a senior political official of the Free Syrian Army, said in neighboring Turkey. "I appreciate their motives for coming to Syria. We cannot deny Muslims their right to jihad, but we want them to leave." He spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss concerns over the group.

Still, in Aleppo, the image of pious Islamic warriors coming to help in the fight against Assad is an attractive one. Though Jabhat al-Nusra is predominantly made up of foreigners, a few Syrians have joined, mostly ultraconservative Muslims.

Syrians can join only if they are backed by two full members who must swear on the Quran to tell the truth about the applicant. The fighters run training programs for their Syrian members as well as others who want to learn fighting skills but don't want to join the group.

The high esteem in which the Jabhat al-Nusra fighters are held has a great deal to do with the unruly behavior and lack of discipline of many rebels.

One recent night, al-Nusra fighters brought the bodies of four Syrian rebels who were killed when a fellow rebel they were interrogating over suspicion that he was stealing grabbed an assault rifle and shot them. A fifth rebel was wounded.

Later, when comrades of the four dead heard the news they gathered outside the hospital and, enraged, fired their entire bullet magazines into the air. Another group of fighters reacted similarly when struck by grief over the death of a comrade.

Residents of Aleppo also complain that some rebels take unfair advantage of their position.

Fighters go straight to the front of the line at bakeries to buy bread when residents have to wait hours for their turn. Some demand that wounded comrades be treated ahead of civilians at the field hospital.

"I don't have time to wait in line," said a 19-year-old army deserter who joined the rebels in Aleppo and gave only his first name, Hani.

Environment

When invasive plants take over

By MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

AKRON, Ohio—For about 30 years, David and Carol Wolfe practiced benign neglect about the wooded areas of their nearly five-acre property in Barberton, Ohio.

They mowed their lawn and tended to the landscaped areas. But nature, they reasoned, was better suited to take care of the rest.

Now they're rethinking that approach.

The Wolfes recently discovered their woods are rife with invasive plants that are elbowing out more desirable native species. David Wolfe recently hacked out two patches of burning bush a previous owner had planted and managed to clear part of the woods of the plants' offspring, which were crowding the understory. The couple has also pulled masses of garlic mustard and has started attacking the Oriental bittersweet vines that are twining up the trees.

But there's more to be removed, notably the bush honeysuckle, common buckthorn and multiflora rose that have established themselves around the property.

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT

A photo of common buckthorn is just one of many invasive plants growing on the property of David and Carol Wolfe, as seen, October 12, 2012, in Barberton, Ohio.

"We'll be doing this for a long time," Carol Wolfe predicted.

The Wolfes may be more aware of the problem than most homeowners, but they're no more culpable. For centuries, gardeners have been contributing to the spread of non-native plants, most without realizing it.

The Wolfes probably wouldn't have known, either, were it not for a plant-savvy son and daughter-in-law who noticed the situation. Their son, Scott Wolfe, recently earned a master's degree in horticulture and crop science from Ohio State University. Their daughter-in-law, Danae Wolfe, is the agriculture and natural resources educator with the OSU Extension in Summit County and a specialist in invasive plants.

The problem with invasives is that they lack the natural controls that keep them in check in their native ranges, said Rick Gardner, chief botanist with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Only a fraction of non-native plants become invasive, he said, but those that do crowd out native species, altering habitats and threatening the wildlife that depends on the native plants for food, shelter and other functions.

The irony, Danae Wolfe said, is that plants become invasive because they possess the very qualities gardeners prize: They grow quickly, they require little care, and they're rarely bothered by insects or diseases. While you're enjoying those fuss-free plants, they may be reproducing exponentially without your knowledge by sending out shoots or producing seeds that are carried to other places by wildlife, wind, shoes or other means.

Some of the troublesome plants got here accidentally, but many were brought here on purpose. Countless immigrants have brought over seeds to grow foods or flowers that remind them of home, and non-native plants have also been imported to control erosion, feed livestock and serve any number of other purposes. Even the dandelion was brought here by colonists in the 1600s as a treatment for dysentery, Gardner noted.

Non-native plants are still being planted unwittingly. Some invasive plants are sold in nurseries, many are traded among gardeners or some are planted by cities to line streets, Gardner and other invasive-plant experts said.

Experts urge people to familiarize themselves with invasive plants and find native replacements. Lists of suggested native species and sources for buying them are on some states' website, and Gardener said they're also increasingly available at nurseries.

Act fast when you spot an invasive plant. It's easier to control a small stand than to eradicate an extensive invasion.

Do Your Part and get audited—really!

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

The word "audit" can strike fear in just about anyone. And, while I am writing about the importance of getting audited, I don't mean that scary tax kind. I'm talking about a home energy audit and how getting one can instantly slash your utility bills. It's an ideal way to Do Your Part and save money when you discover which things in your home can be made to operate more efficiently without an expensive upgrade.

A couple of years ago, I had an energy auditor perform a series of tests on my home, which was built in the 1940s. One involved hooking up a large blower to my front door to pull the air out of the house. This created suction within the house and air from the outdoors could actually be heard coming through the leaks. Not surprisingly, I learned my old house leaked like a sieve and after the test, I took action.

My home had one of the most common problem areas—a leaky wood-burning fireplace. Drafts are created even with the flue closed. An inexpensive fix is to install a fireplace plug. These inflatable devices will block the draft until you're ready to use the fireplace again. By blocking drafts you will see an immediate difference in your heating and cooling costs. This is not a solution for a gas burning fireplace with a continuously burning pilot.

Hot and cold air can also easily escape around doors and windows. This is another easy fix. Once you discover where your problem areas are, you can remedy them with some new weather stripping. There are now self adhesive ones which make this a simple do it yourself project.

My energy auditor also filled me in on a lesser-known trouble spot—the space around supply boots. Supply boots are the piece of duct found behind your air vents. If you see holes or gaps there you can seal it up with inexpensive ductwork tape easily at most hardware stores.

And don't forget about your attic entryway. These areas are rarely insulated. Whether you have a vertical door or a pull down hatch, a simple solution is to add a board of rigid insulation. It's a whole lot less messy and easy to mount. You can watch a quick video of me installing rigid insulation at DoYourPart.com/Columns.

Once you find out where you are wasting money and resources in your home it's easy to make energy efficient upgrades. Your energy auditor will be able to give you specific recommendations. Then, you can hire someone to make the changes or you can do it yourself. Either way, you will Do Your Part to lower the amount of energy use along with your monthly utility bills.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part, *a practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.*

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Silent Hill: Revelation 3D

Friday		7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		7:30	

Cast: Adelaide Clemens, Carrie-Anne Moss
Genre: Horror • Rated R

Synopsis
When a young woman (Adelaide Clemons) loses her father (Sean Bean) to mysterious supernatural forces, she must decend into the bowels of hell to find not only him, but discover who she really is in this follow-up to 2006's videogame adaptation of Konami's Silent Hill franchise. Solomon Kane's Michael J. Bassett directs from his own script.

Silent Hill: Revelation 2D

Friday		4:30	
Saturday		4:30	
Sunday		4:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	

Cast: Adelaide Clemens, Carrie-Anne Moss
Genre: Horror • Rated R

Fun Size

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Victoria Justice, Thomas Mann, Chelsea Handler
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

A Secret Affair

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Anne Curtis, Derek Ramsay, Andi Eigenmann
Genre: Romance, Drama • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Paranormal Activity 4

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Stephen Dunham, Alexondra Lee
Genre: Horror • Rated R

Here Comes The Boom

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kevin James, Henry Winkler, Salma Hayek
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG

Pitch Perfect

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Ben Platt
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG13

Hotel Transylvania 3D

Friday			7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25		7:25	9:50
Sunday	1:25		7:25	
Monday thru Thursday			7:25	

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Hotel Transylvania 2D

Friday		4:25		
Saturday		4:25		
Sunday		4:25		
Monday thru Thursday		4:25		

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

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Life & Style

Disney to make new 'Star Wars' films, buy Lucas company

By RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

AP

In this publicity photo released by Disney, Robert A. Iger, left, chairman and CEO, The Walt Disney Company, and George Lucas, chairman and founder, Lucasfilm, sign the agreement for The Walt Disney Company to acquire Lucasfilm Ltd. on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2012, in Burbank, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A decade since George Lucas said "Star Wars" was finished on the big screen, a new trilogy under new ownership is destined for theaters after The Walt Disney Co. announced Tuesday that it was buying Lucasfilm Ltd. from him for $4.05 billion.

The seventh movie, with a working title of "Episode 7," is set for release in 2015. Episodes 8 and 9 will follow. The trilogy will continue the story of Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and Princess Leia beyond "Return of the Jedi," the third film released and the sixth in the saga. After that, Disney plans a new "Star Wars" movie every two or three years. Lucas will serve as creative consultant in the new movies.

"I'm doing this so that the films will have a longer life," Lucas, the 68-year-old creator of the series and sole owner of Lucasfilm, said in an interview posted on YouTube. "I get to be a fan now ... I sort of look forward to it. It's a lot more fun actually, than actually having to go out into the mud and snow."

Disney CEO Bob Iger said Lucasfilm had already developed an extensive storyline on the next trilogy, and Episode 7 was now in early-stage development. He said he talked with Lucas about buying the company from him a year and a half ago, but they didn't decide on a deal until very recently as Lucas set in motion his retirement.

"The last 'Star Wars' movie release was 2005's 'Revenge of the Sith'—and we believe there's substantial pent-up demand," Iger said.

The blockbuster deal announced Tuesday will see Disney pay half the acquisition price in cash and half in newly issued stock. The company expects it to add to earnings in 2015 and said that as an example of its earnings power, Lucasfilm made $550 million in operating income the year "Sith" came out. Along with the cash, Lucas will end up owning about 40 million Disney shares, which is about 2.2 percent of the 1.83 billion shares that will be in circulation when the transaction closes. Disney did not say when that would happen.

The deal includes Lucasfilm's prized high-tech production companies, Industrial Light & Magic and Skywalker Sound, as well as rights to the "Indiana Jones" franchise. Lucasfilm will continue to be headquartered in San Francisco's Presidio park, and employees are to remain in their current locations. Disney has its headquarters in Burbank, California, near Los Angeles.

The deal brings Lucasfilm under the Disney banner with other brands including Pixar, the Muppets, Marvel, ESPN and ABC, all companies that Disney has acquired over the years. Coincidentally, Lucas created Pixar as a division of Lucasfilm to develop computerized filmmaking techniques before he sold it to Apple's Steve Jobs, who later sold it to Disney.

Twitter went wild with the news as fans speculated on mash-up titles for future movies, using the hashtag "Disney-StarWars." Among the amusing attempts were "When You Wish Upon a Death Star" and "Bambi Wan Kenobi." ''Star Wars," ''LucasArts," ''Disney," and "Indiana Jones" were all trending topics on Twitter after the deal was announced late Tuesday afternoon.

Fan club co-founder Ming Pan, a graphic designer in San Francisco, said he was glad audiences would get another "Star Wars" movie but worried whether the franchise would thrive after Lucas passes the torch.

"It's something that I thought may happen down the line, but I just didn't expect it to happen while Lucas was still alive because he has always expressed such a tight control over the 'Star Wars' license," Pan said.

Lucas was hailed as a cinematic visionary when the original "Star Wars" came out in 1977. But he had become an object of often-vicious ridicule by the time he released 3-D versions of all six films in the franchise earlier this year.

Die-hard fans had been vilifying Lucas for years, convinced that he had become a commercial sell-out and had compounded his sins by desecrating the heroic tale that he originally sought to tell.

They railed against him for adding grating characters such as Jar Jar Binks to the prequel trilogy, which Lucas directed and which came out from 1999 to 2005. They attacked him for tinkering with the original trilogy that spanned 1977 to 1983, too. Revisions in special editions and home video releases—such as making the Ewoks blink and having a green-skinned alien named Greedo take the first shot at Han Solo in a famous bar scene—were treated as blasphemy.

The criticism grated on Lucas, who vowed never to make another "Star Wars" movie.

"Why would I make any more when everybody yells at you all the time and says what a terrible person you are?" Lucas told The New York Times earlier this year.

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," the fourth film in another lucrative franchise, subjected Lucas to even more barbs when it came to the big screen in 2008. Fans of those films were especially outraged about an opening scene that featured Indiana Jones crawling into a lead-lined refrigerator to survive a nuclear bomb blast.

Lucas was fed up by the time he released "Red Tails," a movie depicting the valor of African-American pilots during World War II, earlier this year. He told the Times he was ready to retire from the business of making blockbusters and return to his roots as a student at University of Southern California's film school, where he once made a movie about clouds moving in a desert.

Kathleen Kennedy, the current co-chairman of Lucasfilm, will become the division's president and report to Walt Disney Studios Chairman Alan Horn. She will serve as executive producer for the new movies. Directors for the new movies have not yet been announced, but they are destined to be live action, not animated, Iger said.

In the YouTube video, Lucas said the decision to continue with the saga wasn't inconsistent with past statements.

"I always said I wasn't going to do any more and that's true, because I'm not going to do any more, but that doesn't mean I'm unwilling to turn it over to Kathy to do more," Lucas said.

Twitter abuzz with Disney-Lucas mashups

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie nerds went nuts on Twitter upon hearing the news Tuesday that Disney was buying Lucasfilm for $4.05 billion. Many were psyched about the prospect of three new "Star Wars" movies, starting with the tentatively titled "Episode 7" in 2015, while others were worried that the Disney empire would ruin the Evil Empire.

Either way, fans had fun thinking up mashups of these two cultural institutions, flooding Twitter feeds with the hashtag "DisneyStarWars." Among the most amusing mixes:

- *When You Wish Upon a Death Star.*
- *Finding Greedo.*
- *Song of the Sith.*
- *Lando and the Tramp.*
- *Snow White and the Seven Droids.*
- *The Princess Leia Diaries.*
- *Emperor Palpatine's New Groove.*
- *The Wookiee.*
- *Beauty and the Boba Fett.*
- *Lilo & Sith.*
- *The Fox and the Han Solo.*
- *Droid Story.*
- *Jabba the Pooh.*
- *Bambi Wan Kenobi.*
- *Chitty Chitty Death Star.*
- *That's So Vader.*

Swift's 'Red' sells 1.2 million copies in debut

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift's new album is called "Red," but its true color is a brilliant platinum. The 22-year-old sold 1.2 million copies of her latest album in its first week—the largest sales week for any album in a decade.

Nielsen SoundScan confirmed the blockbuster sales on Tuesday night. "Red" marks Swift's second straight album to sell more than 1 million copies in its first week; "Speak Now," her third album, sold a little over 1 million copies when it was released in 2010. She is the only woman to have two albums sell more than 1 million copies in its first week.

"They just told me Red sold 1.2 million albums first week. How is this real life?! You are UNREAL. I love you so much. Thanks a million ;)," Swift tweeted Tuesday night.

The only other act to sell more than 1 million copies of an album in its debut week twice was 'N Sync.

Swift isn't a boy band, but she's certainly got the appeal of one: the country crossover has a huge following, particularly among teens who have followed her since she was a teen herself, releasing her first album. But she's also a critic's darling: The Grammy-winner's "Red" garnered plenty of acclaim when it was released last week.

Swift was omnipresent in the week of the album's release, appearing on such shows as "Good Morning America" and "Katie." She also joined with two untraditional partners—Papa John's and Walgreens, which offered the album for sale. And she announced her upcoming tour.

AP

This CD cover image released by Big Machine Records shows the latest album by Taylor Swift, "Red."

The last album to sell more than 1 million copies in its debut week was Lady Gaga's "Born This Way," which sold 1.1 million copies last year. However, that album was deeply discounted on Amazon.com in its first week.

Swift has the opportunity to celebrate for a second time this week: As the reigning "Entertainer of the Year" at the CMA Awards, she has the chance to capture the trophy for a second time when it is held Thursday in Nashville.

TOP 10

iTunes' Official Music Charts for the week ending Oct. 29, 2012

TOP SONGS:

1. "**Gangnam Style**," PSY
2. "**Locked Out of Heaven**," Bruno Mars
3. "**Die Young**," Ke$ha
4. "**One More Night**," Maroon 5
5. "**I Knew You Were Trouble**," Taylor Swift
6. "**Diamonds**," Rihanna
7. "**Some Nights**," Fun.
8. "**Red**," Taylor Swift
9. "**I Cry**," Flo Rida
10. "**We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together**," Taylor Swift

TOP ALBUMS:

1. "**Red**," Taylor Swift
2. "**good kid, m.A.A.d city**," Kendrick Lamar
3. "**Night Train**," Jason Aldean
4. "**Babel**," Mumford & Sons
5. **"Blak and Blu**," Gary Clark Jr.
6. "**Until Now**," Swedish House Mafia
7. "**Dreams and Nightmares**," Meek Mill
8. "**House of Gold & Bones, Pt. 1**," Stone Sour
9. "**The Lumineers**," The Lumineers
10. "**Pitch Perfect (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)**," Various Artists

Actor Edward Furlong arrested at LA airport

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities say actor Edward Furlong has been arrested at Los Angeles International Airport on suspicion of domestic violence.

Furlong

Airport police say the star of "Terminator 2" and "American History X" was arrested after officers responded to an arrival area late Monday.

He was booked on suspicion of felony domestic violence involving a spouse or girlfriend. Police did not identify the person who Furlong allegedly injured. The actor's divorce from estranged wife Rachael Kneeland is pending.

Jail records show the 35-year-old is being held on $50,000 bail.

His publicist R.J. Rousso did not immediately respond to phone and email messages seeking comment.

Justin Bieber, Nick Cannon honor teen volunteers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Bieber, Emma Stone, Tyra Banks and Josh Duhamel are honoring U.S. teenagers who give back to their communities.

Each star will pay tribute to a teen volunteer at the fourth annual TeenNick HALO Awards. It is presented to young people who are "helping and leading others."

Nick Cannon, who created the awards show, will serve as its host and executive producer. It is set to tape Nov. 17 at the Hollywood Palladium and air as a 90-minute special on the Nickelodeon cable network on Nov. 19.

This Sept. 30, 2012 file photo shows Justin Bieber performing at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. AP

The four honorees come from across the United States and range in age from 16 to 19. One started an organization to help outfit low-income teenage girls. Another makes and distributes gift bags for breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Will Ferguson wins Canadian literature award

TORONTO (AP)—Will Ferguson has won one of Canada's most prestigious literary awards for a novel about a Canadian family's entanglement in a Nigerian email scan. Ferguson won the Scotiabank Giller Prize for his book "419" on Tuesday. A kilt-wearing Ferguson pulled out a flask during his acceptance speech and raised a toast to the written word. The $50,000 Giller prize honors Canadian fiction. Past winners have included Margaret Atwood, Mordecai Richler and Alice Munro. The Giller was created in 1994 by businessman Jack Rabinovitch in memory of his late wife, literary journalist Doris Giller. It honors the best in Canadian fiction. Presenters included Sex and the City actress Kim Cattrall. The Canadian Broadcasting Corp. broadcast the glitzy awards show across Canada.

Police: Gene Hackman slaps homeless man in NM

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Police in New Mexico say Gene Hackman was acting in self-defense when he slapped a homeless man who had become aggressive toward the Oscar-winning actor and his wife. The Albuquerque Journal reports that the incident occurred Tuesday afternoon in downtown Santa Fe. Police didn't immediately provide any additional details. A message seeking comment was left for Hackman's publicists at Guttman Associates in Beverly Hills, California. Hackman and his wife have a home in Santa Fe. The 82-year-old actor has won two Academy Awards and been nominated for three others over a career that has spanned five decades. Hackman took the Best Actor trophy for his portrayal of Jimmy "Popeye" Doyle in "The French Connection" in 1971, and the Best Supporting Actor award for "Unforgiven" in 1992.

'Octomom' checks into rehab citing anxiety, stress

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Octomom" Nadya Suleman has checked herself into a rehabilitation center, citing anxiety, exhaustion and stress, a spokeswoman for the mother of 14 said Tuesday. Suleman had been taking the medication Xanax under a doctor's care to deal with her problems, but she felt she needed a treatment program to help with her recovery, spokeswoman Gina Rodriguez said in a statement. Suleman checked herself into the Chapman House Treatment Center on Oct. 23 and "will be in treatment for 28 days or more if needed," Rodriguez said. The rehab facility declined to confirm they are caring for Suleman because of patient confidentiality laws. Meanwhile, three nannies and two of Suleman's friends will care for her octuplets, who will be 4 years old in January, and her six older children.

Father's grave lies unmarked after widow spends his money

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My father passed away a year ago, after being married to "Valerie" for 14 years. After his death, she got his life insurance. She paid for his funeral and the burial. She also bought a new house and a horse within two months of losing our father. Four months later, she was dating another man.

My sister and I didn't ask for anything except a few articles of Dad's clothing. Having spent all the insurance money, Valerie is now asking me and my sister to give her money for our father's headstone. We feel his life insurance money should have been used for this. My question is, are we wrong for being angry with her? Isn't she at least morally obligated to purchase his headstone?

LOST GRIEVING DAUGHTER

DEAR DAUGHTER: Your stepmother should be ashamed of herself for foisting off her moral responsibility to her husband of 14 years. And no, you're not wrong to be angry about it.

You and your sister must now decide if you can live with the thought of your father having an unmarked grave. Ask the people who manage the cemetery if they might allow you to have a special planting—a bush, perhaps—to be used as a marker in lieu of a headstone.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Last night I got a debt collection call for my brother, "Stan." He and his wife, "Susie," are ready to file for bankruptcy and have been dodging creditors left and right. This is the first time I have heard from Stan's creditors, but creditors have called me about other family members, too. My relatives expect me to lie to the callers to protect them.

Abby, I pay my bills and pride myself on living an honest and open life. I feel bad for Stan and Susie, but is it right for them to expect me to deal with their creditors when they won't?

FED UP IN DELAWARE

DEAR FED UP: Of course not. However, whoever made that call may not have been in compliance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, which applies to those who collect debts owed to creditors for personal, family and household debts. (These can include car loans, mortgages and money owed for medical bills.)

According to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, a debt collector may not contact the debtor's friends, relatives, employer or others, except to find out where the person who owes the money lives or works. If the calls continue, contact the Federal Trade Commission by calling (toll-free) 1-877-382-4357 or visit its website, www.ftc.gov.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Over the years I have become friends with a client of mine, "Doug." I live in Wisconsin; he lives in Florida. We are both happily married and share about family and work. We use instant messaging for work-related issues and to chit-chat. We have typed "I love you" to each other at times -- but only if we're being sarcastic, joking around or saying thanks for some help.

My husband doesn't think you can say "I love you" to a friend without having feelings or wanting more. I have never regarded Doug as anything but a friend, and he feels the same. Can I say "I love you" to a friend without it meaning something more?

SPREADING THE LOVE

DEAR SPREADING: In my opinion you can, and many people do. There is a difference between saying "I love you" and "I am IN love with you," and I'm surprised that your husband doesn't realize it. Could he be feeling insecure?

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

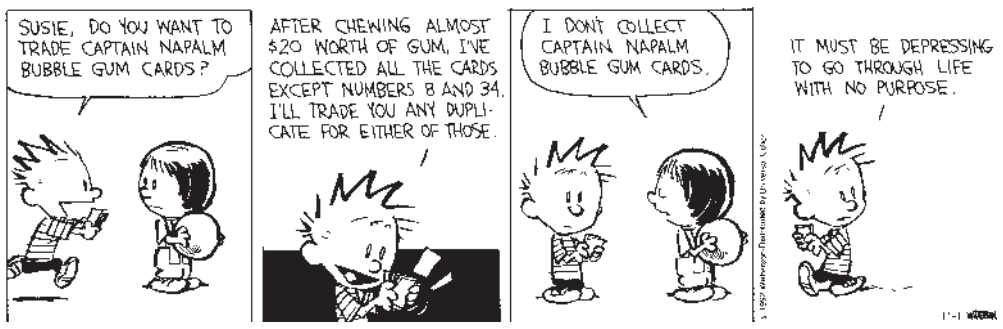
■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

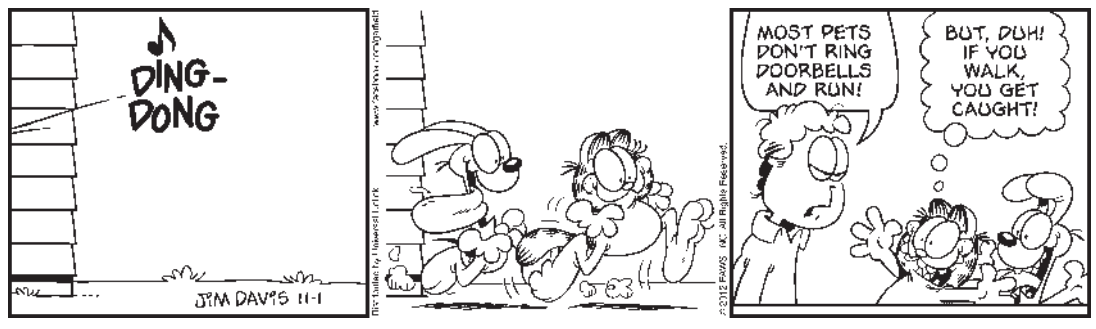
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SUSIE, DO YOU WANT TO TRADE CAPTAIN NAPALM BUBBLE GUM CARDS?
AFTER CHEWING ALMOST $20 WORTH OF GUM, I'VE COLLECTED ALL THE CARDS EXCEPT NUMBERS 8 AND 34. I'LL TRADE YOU ANY DUPLICATE FOR EITHER OF THOSE.
I DON'T COLLECT CAPTAIN NAPALM BUBBLE GUM CARDS.
IT MUST BE DEPRESSING TO GO THROUGH LIFE WITH NO PURPOSE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



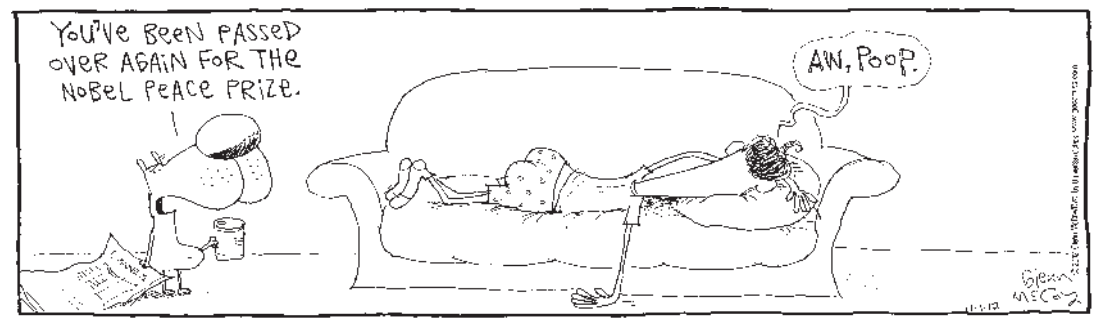
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SERIOUSLY, LAURA. HOW CAN A MOM-AND-POP BOOKSTORE COMPETE AGAINST THE CHAINS AND THE INTERNET?
WELL, WE NEED TO PROVIDE SOMETHING THAT THEY CAN'T.
LIKE?
LIKE PERSONALITY, EXPERTISE, A GOOD CUP OF COFFEE AND A FRIENDLY SMILE.
HOW DO WE COMPETE WITH THEIR PRICES AND LIMITLESS SELECTION?
DID YOU GET A LOAD OF THIS SMILE?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

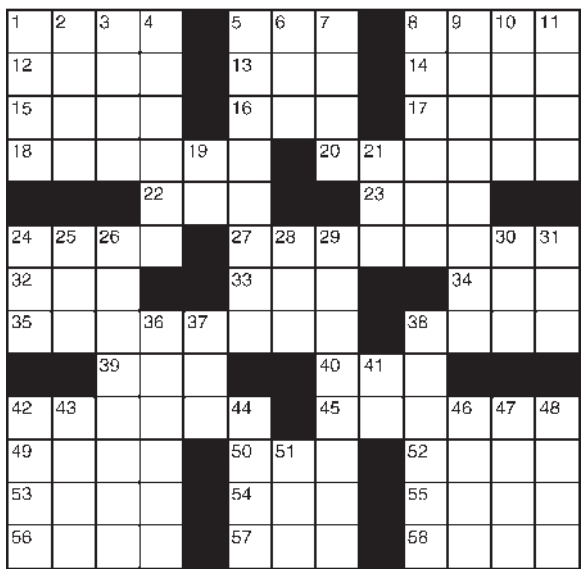
ACROSS
1 Smooth-talking
5 Water barrier
8 Urban pall
12 Places
13 "Where did — wrong?"
14 Ocean motion
15 Enthusiastic, plus
16 — de deux
17 One
18 Cognitive
20 Dry cleaner's challenges
22 Acapulco gold
23 Branch
24 Freeway access
27 Small details
32 Peyton's brother
33 Alias (Abbr.)
34 Sharp turn
35 Church VIP
38 Titanic foe
39 Ostrich's cousin
40 "Flying Down to —"
42 High-ranking angel
45 Historic write-up
49 Rocky peak
50 Suitable
52 Castle protection
53 Leering look
54 Zodiac cat
55 Former
56 Pitch
57 Listener
58 Abound

DOWN
1 Glitz
2 Theater box
3 PC picture
4 Circus tent
5 Embassy bigwig
6 Turkish title
7 Peat source
8 Washington's portraitist
9 Play down
10 Valhalla VIP
11 Understands
19 It's between kue and ess
21 Greek consonant
24 Sleep phenomenon, for short
25 "The Greatest"
26 Ores
28 Prez after Harry
29 Storyteller
30 Melody
31 Early bird?
36 Pictorializations
37 Dine
38 Wittiicism
41 Fashionable
42 Highlander
43 Therefore
44 — and hearty
46 Top-rated
47 Chantilly, e.g.
48 Goblet feature
51 Shooter ammo

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	O	L	O	■	A	T	M	■	A	W	O	I
A	R	A	B	■	L	E	A	■	L	E	G	O
N	E	W	S	W	E	E	K	■	L	E	E	S
D	O	N	E	E	■	■	E	V	O	K	E	S
■	■	■	S	E	R	F	■	O	W	L	■	■
A	I	L	S	■	E	L	U	L	■	O	H	O
F	R	O	■	H	A	U	N	I	■	N	I	L
T	F	N	■	O	M	I	T	■	A	G	F	D
■	■	G	I	N	■	D	O	O	M	■	■	■
E	T	H	N	I	C	■	■	R	E	L	A	Y
B	A	A	L	■	H	A	I	R	L	I	N	C
B	R	I	E	■	I	L	K	■	I	O	T	A
S	O	R	T	■	P	I	E	■	A	N	I	S

Yesterday's answer 11-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Penn Badgley, 26; Toni Collette, 40; Jenny McCarthy, 40; Lyle Lovett, 55.

Happy Birthday: You should make essential changes personally, financially and emotionally. A residential move or changing your living arrangements to better suit your needs will pay off. Use your experience to help you gain access into positions, groups or partnerships that have as much to offer you in return. Update your image and prepare to engage in new pastimes. Your numbers are 3, 15, 19, 23, 27, 31, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Partnerships will prove to be entertaining, informative and will allow you to develop your ideas to the max and to build a solid base for your future explorations. You should embrace change in both your business and personal lives. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep your money and belongings in a safe place. Unnecessary purchases or letting someone guilt you into spending or donating will lead to added stress. Plan your actions carefully and don't stray far from your path. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Put more time and effort into your relationships with people you work with as well as those you live and deal with personally. Emotions will surface if you exaggerate, overreact or overindulge. Love is highlighted, but you must be willing to compromise. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Letting others know what you are up to will lead to interference that you must avoid. A change at home may distract you from what you are supposed to be doing. Rely on someone you trust to finish what you start. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Offer your assistance and you will receive rewards for your efforts. A friend or lover from your past is worth contacting. Looking back can help resolve issues you face now. Don't limit what you can do. Stubbornness will not pay off. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Use charm, diplomacy and your imagination in order to get the results you need to move forward. You can win, but it will only happen if you are compassionate, understanding and willing to compromise. Find a way to please everyone without arguing. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Interact with others and you will learn from your encounters. Build relationships that will be useful to you in the future. A creative approach to the way you do business or what you do for a living will help you get ahead. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make your home your sanctuary. A creative project will encourage you to follow a dream. Promises will be broken and tempers hot if you don't have your facts and figures straight right from the beginning. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Partnerships are highlighted and must be nurtured and tended to with compassion and the intent to make alterations that will help enhance future dealings. Don't let insecurities lead to mistakes, arguments or deceit. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Do your best to make an impression. Someone you've dealt with in the past will make a proposal that will interest you. Before moving ahead, check the information you've been given. Travel will lead to unexpected setbacks or trouble. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Strategize carefully and you'll make the right choice. Don't let anyone lead you astray with promises that have little substance. Focus on home, family and the people you love. A financial deal or personal investment will prove to be prosperous. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let your emotions interfere with money matters. You must take care of business before you take on personal issues that develop between you and a friend, neighbor or colleague. Discipline will be required to avoid loss. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are clever, charming and unpredictable. You are popular, entertaining and demonstrative.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						6		5
		4	1					
	6		4			1		2
	2	6		9	1			
			8	5		9	7	
7		1			9		8	
					3	5		
2		9						

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	2	9	5	8	1	3	7	6
1	7	3	6	9	4	2	5	8
5	6	8	2	7	3	1	4	9
2	4	6	3	1	7	9	8	5
8	3	5	9	4	6	7	1	2
9	1	7	8	5	2	4	6	3
3	5	1	7	2	8	6	9	4
7	8	2	4	6	9	5	3	1
6	9	4	1	3	5	8	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HEALTH EXPERTS **Solution: 9 letters**

A	D	C	T	C	N	S	T	S	E	T	N	P	Y	E
M	N	E	L	U	H	I	S	N	U	U	U	D	R	N
E	I	E	R	I	M	E	Y	L	T	B	E	R	T	D
D	N	S	S	M	N	C	M	R	L	M	R	U	A	O
I	E	A	U	T	A	I	I	I	E	I	U	G	I	C
C	G	N	I	O	H	T	C	R	C	G	P	E	H	R
I	E	F	P	C	I	E	O	A	T	A	R	R	C	I
N	N	T	Y	O	I	T	S	L	L	A	L	U	Y	N
E	E	S	N	P	D	R	C	I	O	U	I	C	S	O
R	T	E	P	E	A	I	T	E	O	G	N	R	P	L
W	I	R	F	E	N	R	A	A	F	L	Y	G	E	O
O	C	A	L	J	A	N	E	T	I	N	O	D	I	G
M	S	C	U	E	I	K	E	H	R	D	I	G	O	Y
E	U	R	H	A	T	A	E	R	T	Y	E	N	Y	B
N	Y	S	P	E	C	I	A	L	I	S	T	P	T	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Megapixels

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-036
Opening Date: Thursday, November 1, 2012
Closing Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2012

SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Electric Power Systems, or his/her designee - namely the Power Manager (Transmission and Distribution). Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; developing procurement and bid documents, evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans, data collection and specifications. Performs load flow and protection studies and analysis. Troubleshoot and analyze system and equipment faults and determine root causes. Carry out planning, design, construction ,management, operation and maintenance of transmission and distribution system in a saline environment. Research, write, and manage the conditions and requirements for renewable energy PPAs and Interconnection Agreements . Reviews work performed by engineering technicians and engineers. Coordinates and meets with other divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Power Division (Transmission and Distribution) , SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $60,000.00 to $73,195.00 per year; un-graded, un-classified.
POSITION: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and four years of directly related experience in an electrical utility. A Master's Degree in Engineering is preferred. Must be a licensed professional engineer from a U.S. state or territory. An engineer with an active NCEES Record is preferred. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using load flow and related software applications; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-035
Opening Date: Thursday, November 1, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, November 19, 2012

Senior Engineering Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Power Division (Transmission and Distribution) Manager or his/her designee. Uses advanced technical computer applications to support engineering functions of the Division. Compiles As-Built drawings and expertly incorporates the data into existing composite system drawings. Performs field duties to include: collecting and gathering data; determining assembly requirements; preparing data for drawings; clearing underground facilities; providing storm damage assessments; conducting field inventories; conducting testing; conducting severance verifications by locating and verifying boundaries; conducting verifications on materials; and, conducting land title research. Prepares drawings, plans, as-builts and land acquisition documents; performs engineering calculations. Receives requests for drawings and independently creates needed drawings and renderings required by engineers for design and construction contracts. Prepares daily assignments to meet schedules and requests. Prepares and submits a variety of reports and documents to include securing permits. Prepares staking sheets to determine the cost of the required work as stated in the application. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: Power Division (T&D); SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $17,800.46 to $28,191.50 per annum; un-graded, un-classified.
POSITIONS: Two (2).
CONTRACT: Not contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Associate Degree in Construction Management or Engineering Technology, or a related field, and two years of senior engineering technician experience. Knowledge of: Public rights of way; CADD programs; Global Positioning Systems; National Electric Code; Mathematics; Basic engineering concepts. Skill in: Drafting; Preparing engineering drawings using CADD; Using GIS; Preparing charts and graphs; Performing mathematical calculations; Performing basic engineering calculations; Solving problems; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must already have a U.S. or CNMI driver's license. Pre-employment drug testing required.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-034
Opening Date: Thursday, November 1, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, November 19, 2012

ENGINEER

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the Deputy Director for Electric Power Systems or his/her designee, namely the Power Manager (Transmission and Distribution). Designs, executes, coordinates, and oversees assigned pieces of projects to ensure adherence with applicable specifications and standards. Assists the public with a variety of inquiries and requests; provides technical information on projects. Maintains project files; prepares related correspondence. Prepares design calculations, engineering drawings, and sketches. Drafts a variety of engineering reports and correspondence. Assists with data collection, troubleshooting of power distribution and substation equipment faults and determining their root causes. Must be able to work with power distribution staff in the maintenance and operation of the power distribution and substation and electrical equipment. Carry out load flow and protection studies. Lead a group of technicians in the installation, operation and maintenance of power distribution and substation . Provide guidance to plant operations staff involved in the operation and maintenance of power distribution and substation equipment. Performs research for the Power Division (Transmission and Distribution). May perform engineer duties for other divisions of CUC. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Power Division (Transmission & Distribution), SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $37,344.71 to $55,315.50 .00 per year; un-graded, un-classified.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering AND at least four years of experience in a power utility (power generation and/or transmission and distribution). Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Basic project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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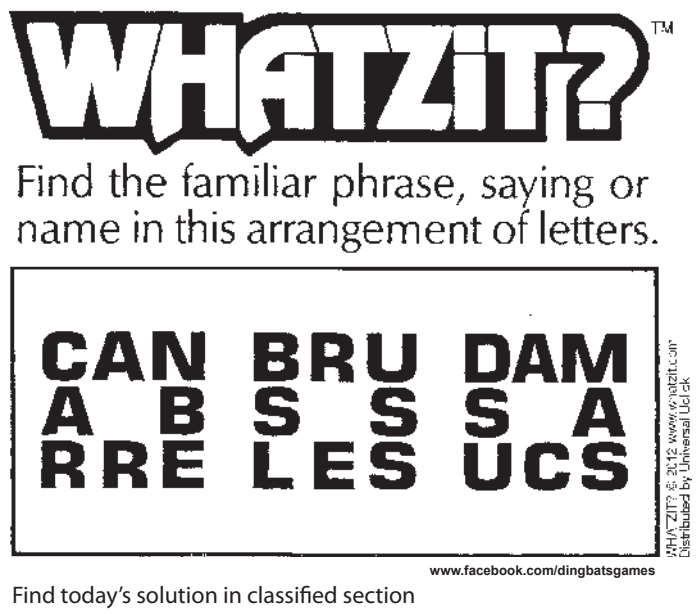
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Heat get rings, then defeat Celtics, 120-107

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James got cramps, Ray Allen was snubbed and Dwyane Wade was steaming.

None of that spoiled the Miami Heat mood on ring night.

Wade scored 29 points, James finished 26 points and 10 rebounds while missing much of the second half because of cramps in both legs, and the reigning NBA champion Heat beat the Boston Celtics 120-107 on Tuesday night in the season opener for both teams.

There were actual fireworks before the game to close the ceremony where the Heat got their championship rings and raised their title banner. There also were plenty of figurative fireworks late, first with Boston almost digging out of a 19-point hole and, after the outcome was decided, Rajon Rondo flagrantly fouling Wade by wrapping his arms around his neck on a drive.

In the end, though, the first Celtics-Heat matchup of this season was like the final one of last season - with Miami winning.

"It was good to cap this night off with a win," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It was an emotional time for all of us in our organization."

Even for the newcomers, like Allen. He scored 19 points - needing only seven field goal attempts - in his first game with Miami since leaving Boston over the summer. Chris Bosh had 19 points and 10 rebounds for Miami.

Allen got chants from the Heat crowd, which is nothing new. Except this time, they were positive.

"Never thought I'd hear that here," Allen said.

Paul Pierce scored 23 points, Rondo finished with 20 points and 13 assists, and Leandro Barbosa scored 16 for Boston. The Celtics, who lost to the Heat in last season's Eastern Conference finals, were not on the court for the ring ceremony.

They almost wrecked the festive mood with a late comeback.

An 11-2 run late in the fourth quarter got Boston within 111-107 on Courtney Lee's layup with 2:09 left. That was the last Celtics' hurrah - Bosh scored the game's next seven points, sealing it for Miami.

"I thought they were the aggressor the whole game," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "They got on the floor where they wanted to get on the floor. They took us out of stuff that they wanted to."

AP

Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce (34) fouls Miami Heat's Ray Allen, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2012, in Miami.

Rashard Lewis scored 10 points for Miami, which held on even while James, last season's MVP of both the regular season and NBA Finals, was in the locker room for the second time because of the cramps, first in his right leg and then his left.

"It's not an all-the-time thing," James said. "I'm not too worried about it."

The Heat got their championship rings from owner Micky Arison before the game, then watched the banner get hoisted to the rafters. More emotion came late, when Wade drove past Rondo - and the Celtics guard grabbed Wade around the neck. Wade appeared as though he was ready to throw the ball at Rondo in retaliation, and stopped himself.

"I thought he hooked me," Rondo said.

Wade had a different opinion.

"It was a punk play by him," Wade said. "The league will take care of it. He clotheslined me, with two hands."

So Rondo raised eyebrows by putting hands on Wade. Kevin Garnett made news by not offering his hand to Allen.

As Allen entered the game for the first time, he trotted toward the Boston bench, exchanging a handshake, embrace and a few words with Rivers, who hasn't hidden his displeasure about his former shooting guard's decision to sign with Miami and didn't sound certain before the game how he would react when he saw Allen in Miami colors. Allen then briskly shook hands with a few assistant coaches.

Mavericks 99, Lakers 91

In Los Angeles, Darren Collison scored 17 points, Brandan Wright added 14, and the Dallas Mavericks spoiled the Lakers debuts of Dwight Howard and Steve Nash with a 99-91 victory over Los Angeles on Tuesday night.

O.J. Mayo had 12 points as the revamped Mavericks pulled off a stunner in their opener, comfortably beating the star-studded Lakers without any help from injured Dirk Nowitzki.

Kobe Bryant scored 22 points while playing on an injured right foot, but the Lakers opened a season of enormous expectations with a major dud of a performance.

Howard had 19 points and 10 rebounds while missing 11 of his 14 free throws before fouling out with 2:02 to play. Nash managed just seven points and four assists with seemingly little to do in the Lakers' new offensive scheme.

Cavaliers 94, Wizards 84

In Cleveland, Anderson Varejao was already having the most prolific rebounding game of his career when he looked at the scoreboard and noticed he was close to his first triple-double.

One point, one assist was all he needed.

''I was like, 'Whoa, I wish I had a little bit more time,"' he said with a smile.

On a night when Cleveland unveiled its backcourt of the future, Varejao did a little bit of everything for the Cavaliers, who blew a 16-point lead in the second half before holding on and beating the short-handed Washington Wizards, 94-84, in the first game on the NBA schedule.

Playing his first home game after missing the final 41 last season with a broken wrist, Varejao had a career-high 23 rebounds. Kyrie Irving scored 29 points and rookie Dion Waiters added 17 for the Cavs, who needed big plays from Irving and Varejao in the final minutes to hold off the Wizards.

Varejao, the Cavs' 6-foot-11 frizzy-haired Brazilian bundle of energy, added nine points and had a career-high nine assists, two setting up dunks by Tristan Thompson in the last two minutes.

Knicks' forward Stoudemire out for 6-8 weeks

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—Amare Stoudemire could be sidelined for two months, the second straight season the New York Knicks forward will miss significant time because of injury.

The Knicks said Tuesday that Stoudemire would have left knee surgery and could be out six to eight weeks, more than twice as long as originally estimated when he was hurt during the preseason.

The team said he will have a debridement, a procedure to remove tissue.

"It's tough. I mean, Amare's a big piece to our puzzle, man. I don't care how you slice it," Knicks coach Mike Woodson said. "We'll be here when he gets back, that's for sure. We've just got to hold the fort down until he's able to get back in a uniform and on the floor playing."

Stoudemire missed the first two preseason games with a bruised left knee, then scored 18 points in 27 minutes against Toronto on Oct. 19. He was bothered by more pain and the Knicks announced he had a ruptured cyst and would be sidelined two to three weeks.

But he and the Knicks decided after further discussion and consultation to have the procedure.

Stoudemire struggled through an injury-filled 2011-12, though none of his problems were with his surgically repaired knee. He missed 15 games because of injuries, 13 with a bulging disk in his back, and his average of 17.5 points was his lowest since his rookie season.

His absence further hinders the Knicks' hopes of getting Stoudemire and Carmelo Anthony to mesh in their first full season together. The Knicks are just 31-40 when both play, and both have said they expected things to be better this season with their first training camp.

McIlroy facing his biggest change

CHINA (AP)—Rory McIlroy's decision to pursue a lucrative equipment deal was in place long before he grabbed a Nike golf club from Tiger Woods during their exhibition match in China and took a few practice swings.

Changing equipment was inevitable. Boy Wonder is simply too big now.

The 23-year-old from Northern Ireland is no longer a U.S. Open champion with a massive upside. He fulfilled a big chunk of that potential this year with four wins, including an eight-shot win at the PGA Championship and back-to-back wins in the FedEx Cup playoffs against two of the strongest fields of the year. He is a lock for PGA Tour player of the year and the Vardon Trophy, all the awards Woods used to win.

McIlroy is a marketing dream, which made him worth too much to stay with Titleist.

Acushnet, the parent company, has a history of promoting its brand through numbers instead of a name. That's why it didn't stand in the way when Woods switched to the Swoosh, why it didn't put up a fight to keep Sergio Garcia a decade ago, and why it let Phil Mickelson out of his contract just four months after Lefty's popularity soared with his first major win at the 2004 Masters. And why it announced Tuesday that its relationship with McIlroy will end this year.

Golfers go through change all the time - agents, caddies, coaches. Switching equipment can be a tricky transition, and there is a long list of players who have struggled with it over the years. What makes McIlroy's next move so interesting is that no other player who was No. 1 in the world made such a wholesale change so early in his career.

"I call it dangerous," six-time major champion Nick Faldo said Tuesday morning on Golf Channel. "I've changed clubs and changed equipment, and every manufacturer will say, `We can copy your clubs, we can tweak the golf ball so it fits you.' But there's feel and sound as well, and there's confidence. You can't put a real value on that."

All signs point to McIlroy signing with Nike, with one industry observer saying the deal could be worth upward of $20 million a year.

Adding to the speculation is whether Woods helped to recruit the kid. They have been extraordinarily chummy since August, and Woods raves about McIlroy. That's not unusual. McIlroy is well-mannered, respectful and doesn't take himself too seriously. He's fun to be around.

Woods and David Duval also became close toward the end of 2000, when they played together in the World Cup in Argentina and then flew together on Woods' private jet to start the year at Kapalua. It wasn't long before Duval, in a legal dispute with Titleist, signed on with Nike.

A Nike official said it would not comment on "rumors and speculation," not even when it would announce its roster for the 2013 season. Nike has money to spend, and McIlroy won't be the only player added to the Swoosh stable next year. Two people with knowledge of his plans say Nick Watney is headed from Titleist to Nike.

It might look as if McIlroy is headed down the same path as Woods, but the difference is in how they change equipment.

Woods spent five years switching out his equipment from Titleist to Nike, with an additional five years to leave his old Scotty Cameron putter.

McIlroy would have only two months.

3 Orioles, 9 first-timers win Gold Gloves

BALTIMORE (AP)—J.J. Hardy thought he'd hit a home run, only to be robbed when Mike Trout made one of the most sensational grabs of the season.

On Tuesday night, Hardy caught a break.

The Baltimore shortstop won a Gold Glove, putting him among a group of nine players honored for the first time for their fielding excellence.

"It means a lot to me," Hardy said. "It's definitely an award I always hoped to get and never really expected to get. I'm surprised and honored at the same time."

Pittsburgh center fielder Andrew McCutchen, San Diego third baseman Chase Headley and Oakland right fielder Josh Reddick also were first-time selections.

"I'm just happy I can pull it out for them and get the A's name even more out there," Reddick said. "It's a huge honor, I'm always taking pride in both sides of my game and trying to be a complete player. You never know what one play, whether the first or the ninth inning, is going to win a ballgame. That's what my mother and father taught me."

The Orioles were the only team with three winners. Baltimore center fielder Adam Jones and catcher Matt Wieters were second-time choices, joining Hardy for the awards chosen by major league managers and coaches and presented by Rawlings.

Trout, the Angels rookie who spent the year climbing walls to take away potential homers, was not picked. Among his best catches came against Hardy at Camden Yards in June.

The San Francisco Giants, fresh off winning a World Series in which they excelled with their gloves, did not have a Gold Glover.

These were the first major awards presented during the offseason, and the MVPs, Cy Youngs and others will come in mid-November. Gold Gloves always seem to raise a ruckus, with many claiming the prizes - actual gloves colored gold - don't define the most deserving fielders.

Hardy led the AL in fielding percentage, making only six errors in 158 games. Others relying on more advanced metrics and insist Seattle's Brendan Ryan was the best shortstop - then again, even though awards are strictly for fielding, players who don't produce at the plate often get bypassed, and Ryan hit a weak .194. Hardy hit 22 home runs.

"I've always hoped but I never expected it," Hardy said. "It's definitely an award I've seen a lot of shortstops get that are really flashy and kind of catch the eye of a lot of people. I don't look at myself that way. I kind of look at myself as just trying to be consistent and steady. I never felt like people noticed."

Wieters, meanwhile, was chosen despite leading AL catchers with 10 errors. He was recognized for the many things he does well - he threw out 39 percent of would-be basestealers and rarely let pitches get past him.

Strong-armed St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina won for the fifth straight year and Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira added his fifth award. Texas third baseman Adrian Beltre, Philadelphia shortstop Jimmy Rollins and Miami pitcher Mark Buehrle became four-time winners.

Buehrle won three times with the Chicago White Sox before joining the Marlins last winter.

"With a whole new group of managers voting for you, it wasn't like it was handed to you," Buehrle said. "The Gold Glove gets to be, `He won it last year, give it to him again.' This one means a lot, because switching leagues, it was different managers voting on it. I had to do my job to earn it."

The other first-time winners in the National League were Washington first baseman Adam LaRoche, Chicago Cubs second baseman Darwin Barney and Atlanta right fielder Jason Heyward.

"I'm extremely thrilled," Barney said. "It's something you came into the season working toward, but it's not something that I thought the results would be there as quickly as they were. I'm extremely happy about it. There's a lot of good competition out there, obviously, and I'm really surprised that ended up happening for me. So it's an exciting night for me."

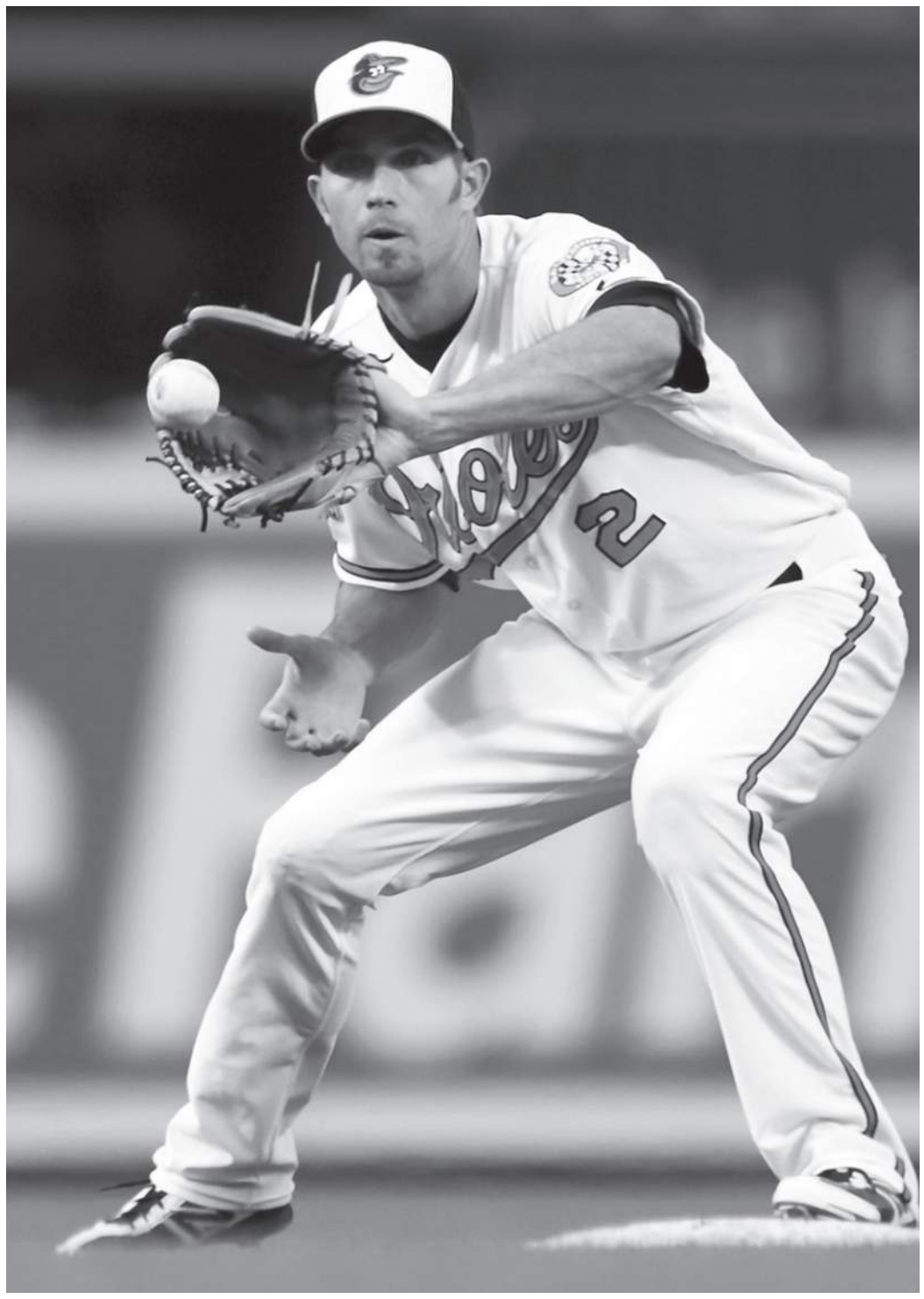
In the AL, pitchers Jake Peavy of the White Sox and Jeremy Hellickson shared the honor as first-time winners. This was only the third time since the Gold Gloves were first presented in 1957 that there was a tie - there were four NL outfielders in 2007 and four AL outfielders in 1985.

Also winning this year: Yankees second baseman Robinson Cano, Kansas City left fielder Alex Gordon and Colorado left fielder Carlos Gonzalez.

Several players were rewarded for their wins.

Beltre received a $100,000 bonus and Hardy got $75,000, Gordon, LaRoche, Molina, Peavy and Rollins each added $50,000; Gonzalez, Jones and McCutchen $25,000 apiece.

In addition, Gordon's salaries for 2014 and 2015 increase by $250,000 a year to $10.25 million and $12.75 million. His 2016 player option also rises by $250,000 to $12.75 million.



AP

In this April 6, 2012, file photo, Baltimore Orioles shortstop J.J. Hardy catches the ball during a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins in Baltimore. Hardy won a Gold Glove Tuesday, Oct. 30, putting him among a group of nine players honored for the first time for their fielding excellence.

Detroit Tigers bring back manager Leyland for 2013

DETROIT (AP)—Jim Leyland insisted throughout the latter part of the season that there would be a time and a place to discuss his managing future.

That moment came Tuesday - when the Detroit Tigers announced Leyland would be back in 2013 with a one-year contract extension.

"I really don't know why this is such a shock to everybody, because we told everybody that we weren't going to talk about this until after the season," Leyland said. "It's not even 48 hours and it's done. I think it was pretty much exactly like we had planned it."

The Tigers and their manager quickly ended any remaining speculation about his status, just two days after Detroit was swept by the San Francisco Giants in the World Series. Leyland was managing on a one-year deal this year as well - and he seems comfortable taking his future year by year at this point in his career.

"I'm going to be here in 2013, and we'll take that from there," Leyland said. "I wanted to manage, but I did think long and hard about it, because I wanted to make sure that I was going to be doing everything that you need to do to continue to keep this club headed in the right direction."

The 67-year-old Leyland leads all active managers with 1,676 wins, a total that puts him 15th on the career list. Next season will be his 22nd as a major league manager and his eighth in Detroit. He's led the Tigers to the postseason three times and the World Series twice.

Leyland's coaching staff is also expected back, although some roles within it could be altered.

By the time the World Series started, general manager Dave Dombrowski had indicated Leyland would be welcome back in 2013, but both the manager and GM sought to postpone any public discussion of his status until after the season.

"I think he pretty much understood that we wanted him back, but it was not something that he really wanted to talk about," Dombrowski said. "When you know somebody for an extended time, you know what areas you prefer to leave untouched - you don't talk about certain things until it's that time."

Detroit faced high expectations this year after signing slugger Prince Fielder in the offseason. By mid-September, Leyland's future seemed uncertain as the Tigers struggled to keep pace in the AL Central, but they overtook the Chicago White Sox to win the division and then beat Oakland and the New York Yankees in the American League playoffs.

Messi leads inaugural AP global soccer poll

LONDON (AP)—Lionel Messi is the best soccer player in the world and his Barcelona team is the top-rated club, according to the inaugural AP Global Soccer 10 rankings released Tuesday by The Associated Press.

A global panel of soccer writers chose Messi as the clear leader in a top 10 list of players for his performance in the week ending Oct. 29.

The Argentine forward has been scoring almost at will for Barcelona in the Spanish league and Champions League, and he added two more in Saturday's 5-0 victory at Rayo Vallecano.

"Shame on Messi," said Filip Bondy, a panelist who writes for the Daily News in New York. "He scored only twice. At this rate, he'll only be the best player in the world ... forever."

Messi received 140 points of a possible 180, 29 points ahead of Real Madrid rival Cristiano Ronaldo with 111. Atletico Madrid striker Radamel Falcao was third with 79 points.

The top three all play in Spain. Manchester United striker Robin van Persie was fourth, followed by Paris Saint-Germain striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

The 18-member panel selected Barcelona as the team of the week. Barca was 21 points ahead of Spanish rival Atletico Madrid. Manchester United was in third place after beating Chelsea 3-2 on Sunday in the Premier League.

Each panelist picks 10 teams and players, with 10 points for first place and one for 10th. The weekly survey includes journalists from Europe, South America, North America and Asia.

All 10 teams are from Europe and the top 10 players all play for European clubs. Three Bundesliga teams were in the top 10 - Schalke, Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Dortmund - but league-leader Bayern Munich failed to make it after losing its first league game of the season against Leverkusen.

"It was an unforgettable week for Borussia Dortmund after a thrilling victory over Real Madrid in the Champions League, with Mario Gotze showing his talent at the highest level and capable of scoring in a Bundesliga 2-0 away win at Freiburg," said Aurelio Capaldi, who works for Rai in Italy.

Gotze crept into 10th place in the poll, in which all are strikers or attacking midfielders.

Although the top 10 players were all based in Europe, James Porteous of the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post gave an honorable mention to China striker Gao Lin. The Guangzhou Evergrande forward scored a last-minute goal to help his team defend its Chinese league title, giving veteran coach Marcello Lippi his first club championship outside Italy.

Rabauliman brings home MVP trophy in Emon Lodge caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former CNMI National Team player Marvin Rabauliman showed consistency in the regular season and sparked Mobil's rally in the fourth quarter of their title game against Hi-Five to take the MVP trophy in the 2012 Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League-Docomo Brotherhood Cup.

Rabauliman averaged in double digits in the regular season to give Mobil a 7-1 record in the elimination round. Then in the playoffs, he scored at least 20 points in two games, including a 22-point output in their 83-64 championship victory over Hi-Five last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to earn the MVP honors. He drilled 8 straight points in the fourth canto to anchor Mobil's breakaway midway in the final period.

The Mobil forward's steady game in the finals helped his team survive the absence of 2010 MVP Jun Estolas, who was barred from playing in the winner-take-all finale after getting a two-year suspension for throwing a punch on Ashley's/Brabu's Marlon De Dios in their semis game.

Rabauliman also made it to the Mythical Five, joining Pacific Islands Club's James Abuy and Brett Sutton, Servitek's Clayton Kenty, and Hi-Five's Dan Barcinas.

Abuy and Sutton helped PIC win the pennant, as the team finished on top of the nine-team field with its 7-1 record. PIC and Mobil had the same regular season records, but the former won the tie-break, as it prevailed in their only meeting in the elimination. PIC's lone loss came at the hands of Hi-Five and the former bowed anew to the latter in the semis before winning the third place trophy against Ashley's. Abuy scored 31 points in the consolation game, while Sutton missed the match due to injury.

Barcinas and Hi-Five finished the regular season with a 5-3 slate to claim the No. 5 spot in the team standings. The former CNMI National Team member was the top scorer for Hi-Five and logged 24 markers in the title match, failing to lift his team to victory after slowing down in the second half of the finale.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman, seen here driving against Armatech's Elmer Esdrelon during their semis game, won the MVP award in the Emon Lodge caging.

Kenty was also the No. 1 gunner of Servitek, averaging close to 20 points per game, but his squad was at the bottom of the team standings and missed the playoffs after failing to win a single game in the regular season.

WONDRASEK

From Page 28

and then women. It looked like the men had the hardest start because they had a couple of big waves break as they entered the water. Getting out with those waves also proved to be a bit of a challenge but added to the thrill and rush of the race," Wondrasek said.

"I saw a really big sea turtle swimming below as we were circling around the second buoy. I am really happy with my swim time," added Wondrasek, who clocked in at 34:24.

Next up for Wondrasek was the 30.4-km bike race, which she said was the hardest, as she initially thought she would not be able to complete it.

"The bike course was by far the hardest leg of the race. The terrain is very different than Saipan's. I really struggled on the course the first time I went out to practice, so much so I was really concerned that I might not be able to make the cut off time for T3 (1:30pm)," the MHS teacher said.

"There were a lot of sand pits and sharp turns at the bottom of hills that had me falling all over the place and with my newly bumped knee I was getting nervous that I might end the race with a more serious injury. On race day we were blessed with clouds and light sprinkles to help keep our body heat down. By mile 7 I realized that I was coming up to more of the downhill sections and felt pretty good about being able to make the cut off. Overall I am happy with the bike leg, especially with not being that familiar with the course and that kind of terrain," said Wondrasek, who timed in at 2:48:25 or about 10 minutes ahead of the cut-off time.

With the two tough legs done, the 9.5-km run was a bit easy for the Saipan triathlete, especially with her support team cheering for her at the finish line.

"The run went great! I didn't run it fast but it seemed to go by so fast. It seemed like one minute I was at mile 1 and before I knew it I was hitting mile 2. Once I hit mile 3 it was pretty much down hill from there. Like the bike it was really soft and sandy terrain. My husband (Travis Spaeth) actually met me at the beach section of the run where he continued to encourage me and then took off in a sprint to make sure he got pictures of me finishing. That last stretched seemed like the longest," the 27-year-old triathlete said.

Besides his husband, her parents and four friends also waited for her at the finish line.

"I had a great support team at the finish line. My husband, Arielle Buyum, and Eileen Wisor had all came out with me from Saipan. My parents Al and Barb Wondrasek had come from North Dakota and Judy Hawkins and Dennis Chapla, who were former Saipan residents and now live in Maui all came out to cheer me on," said Wondrasek, who was relieved after completing the lung-busting race.

"The first thing I thought was something like 'Wooohooo! I finished.' I was really concerned that I wasn't going to make it happen, but I did. This was a trip of a lifetime. The XTERRA community is unlike anything I know. I am just in awe with all of the athletes and how hard they push themselves. It just amazing to me that people are able to push themselves so hard and so fast that they can finish the whole race in the same amount of time it takes for me to do the bike section," said Wondrasek.

Meanwhile, the Saipan triathlete had a long list of individuals and companies to thank for making her XTERRA World debut possible.

"I have to give a huge thank you to Eileen Wisor, Arielle Buyum and Travis Spaeth. They were truly my go to pit crew who helped me in every aspect of accomplishing this goal. I also have to thank the local businesses that helped contribute to my fundraising: Joeten Super Store, MarPac, PTC, Restaurant 360, PIC, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Wild Bills, Handbags, Etc., Xerox, DFS, Marianas Trekking, Dive Saipan, IT&E, Saipan Bike Pro, Ride NMI, National Office Supply, and Marianas Resport. I have been so lucky to start this whole journey on Saipan where I have met some amazing friends that I know I will have for a lifetime. I am truly blessed and very grateful for this whole opportunity," she said.

SIS

From Page 28

SIS Green Geckos and Mount Carmel School last Thursday and Tuesday, respectively, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The unbeaten team went through SIS Green, 25-13, in the opening set, and weathered the storm in the second set, 25-19, for the automatic victory before issuing the Green Geckos broom service in the final tiff, 15-7.

Then on Tuesday, the SIS White Geckos held strong under pressure and survived a feisty group of Knights in the opening set, 25-23. The pacesetters then took another early win after easing past Mt. Carmel in the second set, 25-9. Realizing they had just absorbed their fifth loss in six tries, the Knights tried to wake up in the final set, but unfortunately came up short once again, 13-15. Mt. Carmel's only win came via a forfeit to the Kagman High School's Ayuyus in Week 2, and it is tough for the Knights to take only one win, as they always put up a good fight in every match.

In other results last Thursday, MHS Blue pulled the rug from the Knights with a stout 25-11 win out of the gate and followed it up with a heartbreaking 26-24 clincher. MHS Blue went on to complete the sweep, 15-11, but then had to forfeit to its Yellow Dolphins brethren last Tuesday for being one man short.

With the loss, MHS Blue dropped to a 4-2 record for a tie for third place with SIS Green, which rebounded last Tuesday with a shutout victory over KHS, 25-15, 25-13, 15-12. Kagman is still in search of its first win as the latecomer racked up four losses via forfeits before dropping its first two real matches.

MHS Yellow (3-3) was also a recipient of a freebie, as Saipan Southern High School's Manta Rays (1-5) were unable to appear last Thursday.

The Grace Christian Academy Eagles, on the other hand, bagged a pair of wins over Kagman and SSHS to claim sole possession of second place with their 5-1 slate. The Eagles grinded it out in the first set over Kagman 25-23, last Thursday and secured the sweep in the last two sets, 25-12, 15-9.

The Eagles then evaded Southern in the first two sets in similar scores, 25-19 and went on to run the table in the final duel last Tuesday, 15-11.

The season continues tomorrow at 4pm with MHS Yellow challenging GCA on the north court and MHS Blue squaring off against SSHS on the south end. Then at 5:30pm, MCS takes on SIS Green on the north side, while SIS White clashes with KHS on the south court.

TRADERS

From Page 28

edition of the annual event will start this Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

"Once again, it's time to play NMBA's only team competition for the season where we expect maximum participation from all five clubs. We would like to thank Traders Insurance for their continued support. Without corporate sponsors like them, holding regular tournaments for our athletes would not be possible," said NMBA president Jerry Tan, who attended Traders Insurance's donation turnover ceremony yesterday in Oleai.

Traders Insurance vice president Malou Mendoza and her daughter Krizia and the company's chief operating officer and general manager Ernesto Licop handed the $1,500 donation to Tan, who was accompanied by NMBA officials Shirley Kim and Merlie Tolentino.

"Traders Insurance is very much excited to be part of NMBA and supports its regular tournaments. We will continue to support his tournament, as we believe it helps promote leadership, team spirit, sportsmanship, and active lifestyle. We wish all the participants good luck," Licop said.

This year's Traders tournament will feature five clubs—Shirley's Badminton Club, TAGA, Golden Racquets, Berks Blazers, and the defending champion Saipan Badminton Club. SBC dominated Berks Blazers in last year's competition where the "inter-club" concept was implemented. In the first four editions of the tournament, organizers sort of adapted an inter-color competition.

Fifteen events (men's and women's A, B, and C singles and mixed doubles, AB and DC men's and women's doubles, and AB and BC mixed doubles) are lined up for this year's Traders tournament, but opposing squads will only select 10 per game. Then the team with the most matches won (3 for a two-match sweep and 2 for a three-match tiff) wins the pairing.

The Top 4 squads in the team standings after the round-robin elimination will advance to the semis with the No. 1 and 4-ranked squads colliding in the first playoff game and the No. 2 and 3 teams clashing in the other pairing. Games will be played on weekends until Dec. 1, while the opening ceremony begins at 5pm this Sunday.

PROA

From Page 28

Morales were kept in check this time around and combined for only 12 markers.

Proa 73 – Faisao 22, Deleon Guerrero-Diaz 18, Mettao 17, Jas. Palacios 6, Hemley 5, Taitano 2, Sanarez 2, Jac Palacios 1.

Rollers 2 52 – Factor 10, Kwon 9, Nakayama 9, Malonzo 6, Morales 6, Ano 4, Espinosa 3, Iglesias 3, Floresca 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-16, 38-31, 62-42, 73-52.

NMIFA U6 Grassroots Festival

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Shirley's Football Club hosted the U6 Grassroots Festival for the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association last Oct. 13 at the Oleai Elementary School field. Photo shows coach Bryan Anderson conducting warm-up drills.

Participants and volunteer coaches of last Oct. 13's U6 Grassroots Festival pose for a photo.

TFC, MPU, and Matansa players take part in a drill.

Participants gather around for instructions on the drill.

Shirley's Football Club players pose for a photo.

An SFC player attempts a shot on the goal against a Paire player.

Treats for kids are handed out after taking part in four different drills during the U6 Grassroots Festival.

Paire and TFC U6 players pursue the soccer ball in a small-sided drill.

Participants take part in a passing drill.

Coach Macoi Aguda gives instructions to participants of the U6 Grassroots Festival.

Heat get rings, then defeat Celtics, 120-107

24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

3 Orioles, 9 first-timers win Gold Gloves

25

Wondrasek relishes XTERRA World debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2012 XTERRA World Championship is one for the books for first-timer Robyn Wondrasek.

SAIPANSPORTS.COM
Robyn Wondrasek, seen here during the bike leg of the 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship, debuted in XTERRA World last weekend in Maui, Hawaii.

"It was an amazing experience and totally worth all of the training and effort. It is something I will never forget," said Wondrasek, who was among the more than 500 finishers of last Sunday's off-road triathlon event (Monday on Saipan) in Maui, Hawaii, completing the exhausting race in 4:40:44.

Wondrasek's XTERRA World adventure started with a tsunami threat, the night before the race actually kicked off.

"We found out about the tsunami right after the carbo loading dinner on Saturday night. My parents came over to our place for the night because they were staying close to the beach," the Saipan bet said.

Some of the XTERRA World participants also moved to higher grounds and organizers went on a wait-and-see mode the rest of the evening, hoping that the tsunami warning across Hawaii would be lifted in time for the 1.5-kilometer swim leg in the waters off D.T. Flemings Beach.

The tsunami warning was then cancelled around 1am (Sunday) and eight hours later, a throng of swimmers checked on the big waves at the beach.

"The waves weren't too bad and once you got out of the shore breaks, the conditions were great. They started us in 3 different waves, pros, men

See WONDRASEK on Page 26

SIS White Geckos remain unscathed

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Saipan International School's White Geckos' Chris Cepeda returns the ball to the Mount Carmel School Knights during their game in the MISO volleyball league last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan International School's White Geckos added a pair of wins to their flawless record to remain on top of the 2012-2013 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Volleyball League.

The SIS White Geckos now have a 6-0 record and are the only undefeated squad in the eight-team field after beating

See SIS on Page 26

Proa subdues Rollers 2

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mariana Resort/NMC Proa dealt the Rollers 2 its second consecutive loss with a convincing 73-52 victory in their U20 game in the Rotary Club of Saipan's 21st Youth Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Proa improved to a 7-1 record and seized the second place from the Rollers 2, which rode a nice wave of seven wins, including a clutch victory over its big brother Rollers 1 (3-3), but stumbled as of late against the league's Top 2 contenders. Proa has fallen short only to the undefeated defending champions Sonics (8-0) thus far.

The Rollers 1 faced Kagman (2-5) yesterday and details will be released tomorrow, while the season continues today at 5:30pm when the Agape Torchbearers (0-8) look to notch their first win against LD Prime (2-5). The remaining standings include the Oleai Ol'Aces (3-2), Hi-5 (3-5), and the Chalan Kanoa Saints (2-6).

The Rollers 2 hung around in the first period, thanks to a late 7-point string of Kwon Dixon. However, Proa still managed a two possession advantage, 20-16, as it pounded the ball inside to Shane Deleon Guerrero-Diaz and Frank Mettao.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Proa center Shane Deleon Guerrero-Diaz wields a shot around Rollers 2's Jeron Ano during their U20 game in the Rotary caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Proa's circus act Ichitaro Faisao came to town and dropped 11 points in the second quarter to help provide some breathing room at the half, 38-31.

The Rollers 2 was already running on fumes by that point and likely would have dissipated if not for a trio of three-pointers. However the long ball did not fall for the skittish group after the break and Proa pulled away in the third quarter, 62-42, with Deleon Guerrero-Diaz on a 10-point surge.

Proa then sent in the reserves for the majority of the final period after Faisao and Mettao tallied a couple more baskets for good measure.

Faisao's game-high of 22 points edged teammates Deleon Guerrero-Diaz (18) and Mettao (17), while the Rollers 2's Prince Factor was held to a meager 10, while Kwon and YJ Nakayama added only 9 apiece.

Notably, the Rollers 2 mainstays Irvyn Malonzo and CJ

See PROA on Page 26

Traders badminton team tourney kicks off Sunday

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Jerry Tan, fourth left, shows the check donation for the 6th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament. Joining him in the turnover ceremony yesterday in Oleai are, from left, NMBA officials Merlie Tolentino and Shirley Kim, Traders vice president Malou Mendoza, Traders chief operating officer and general manager Ernesto Licop, and Mendoza's daughter, Krizia.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Badminton Association will close out the 2012 season with the staging of its unique competition—the Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.

The Traders Insurance event is the association's lone team contest for the year and the sixth

See TRADERS on Page 26